響
ひびき
小説家になる方法
柳本光晴
MITSUHARU YANAMOTO
2
本の生まれ

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Go to next page

2

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A dancer stands on a small stage in a small town
She lives in a small apartment with her parents and her sister who's three years older.
She is engaged to a 22 year old man who is working in a shipyard.
8: Book making

Kayo-chan's novel is more or less a light novel.

Her style has Rika-san's influence all over it.

It's the kind of story where a normal high school girl gets married to a vampire prince.

Takaya's is, well, more like a diary compared to a novel.

Anyways, he probably just wanted to get it over with.

Ryouta-kun's is your standard young adult fiction...

*A novel targeted for the teen years.

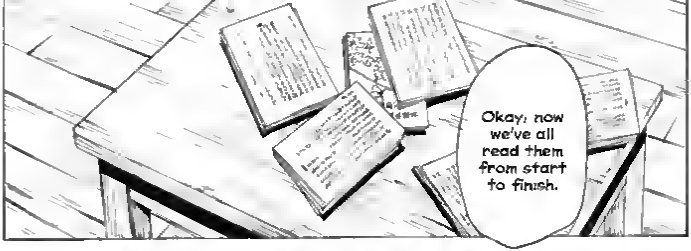
2

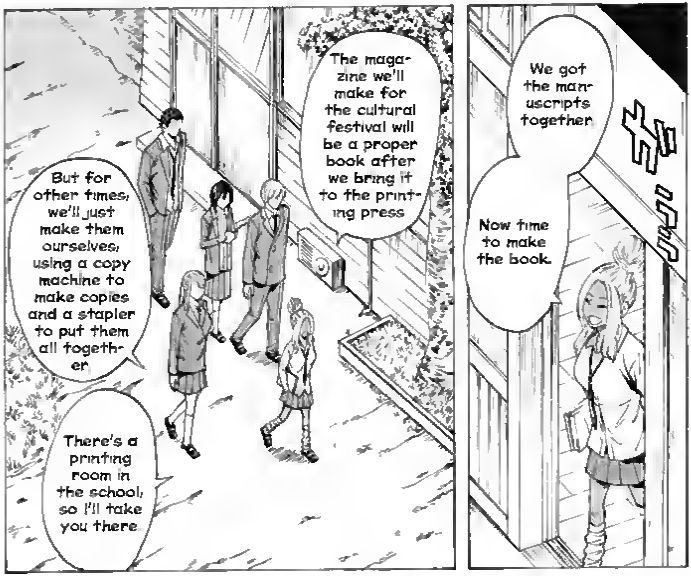
He made a simple piece with proper story progression

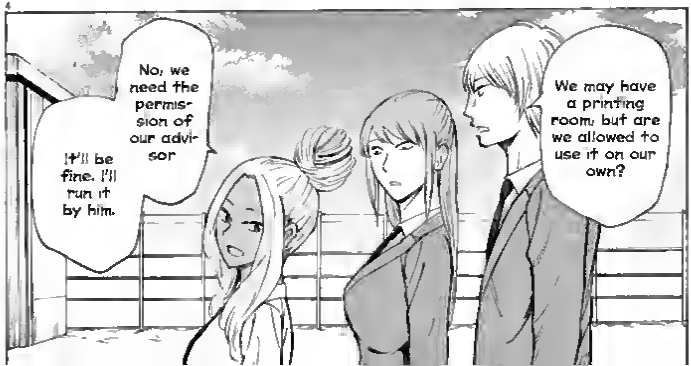
He really is a closed-minded kid

?

Kii
Kii
!
Hibiki-chan's story is interesting, right?
Toh


Okay, now we've all read them from start to finish.


The magazine we'll make for the cultural festival will be a proper book after we bring it to the printing press
But for other times, we'll just make them ourselves, using a copy machine to make copies and a stapler to put them all together
There's a printing room in the school, so I'll take you there
We got the manuscripts together
Now time to make the book.


No, we need the permission of our advisor
It'll be fine. I'll run it by him.
We may have a printing room, but are we allowed to use it on our own?

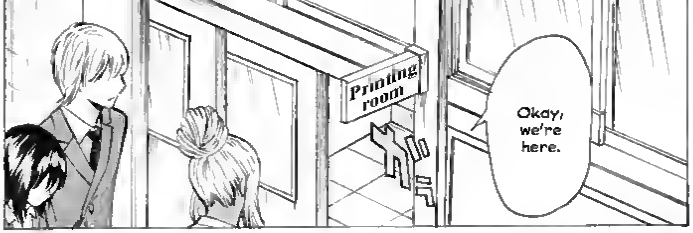
Me neither.
Oh, yeah, we do have an advisor.
It's been a month since we joined, but I've never met him.
Ahaha, you don't ever need to meet him. Ever.
Ah.
He's a shockingly huge scumbag.
So that thing's still alive.
Takaya, if you're going to say that, do something about it.
...what kind of guy is he?
He's been the ethics teacher for three years, Kuroshima Satoshi.
He's the type of guy you'd find in every school, the one who's mad in the head

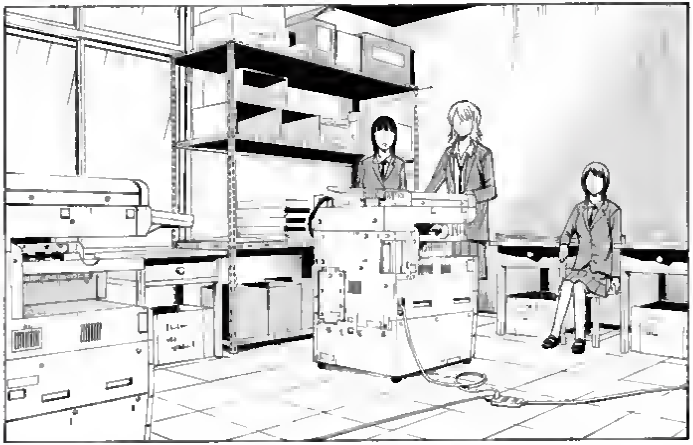
Well, don't worry about it.
Takaya and I aren't on good terms with him, so we don't see him much.
Huh...
An-other scary person ~

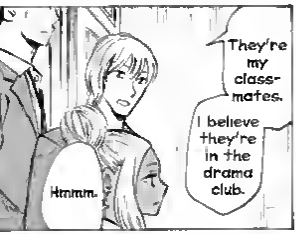
By the way, Hibiki-chan,
I just want to ask,

6

do you have any authors in your family?
Nope.
I see


Printing room
Okay, we're here.




They're my class-mates.
I believe they're in the drama club.
Hmmm.

Oh it's Rika-san
And there's a scary demon guy there.
Scary

Hey.
Ryou-ta,
Akui-san
Oh? You know them?

Oh, there are people here
Ah!

Kuroshima you moron, you didn't get the reservations ready.

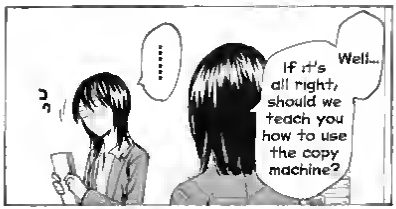
ふーん

Yeah.
Oh, did you come to use the copier?
That's weird, the drama club reserved the slot until 4pm.

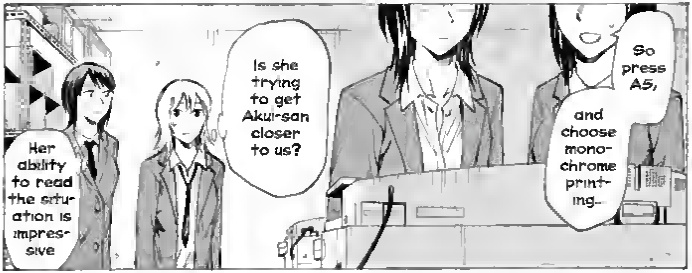
It sure does.
I'm sorry, the literature club also booked this slot, but it looks like we have a schedule conflict.
What now...

Hibiki-chan
Ah, sure.
So, like, if you're only using one copy machine, can we use this one?

The five of us can't do anything about having only one machine,
and it's cramped here because of the other girls,
so I'll just ask you to copy them.
50 copies each, double sided.
Ask your friends how to use the machine.
We're gonna do some other work in the club room,
so have fun.

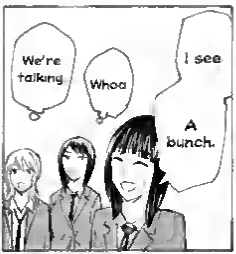

.....
Well...
If it's all right, should we teach you how to use the copy machine?

Uhhh...


Her ability to read the situation is impressive
Is she trying to get Akui-san closer to us?
So press A5,
and choose monochrome printing.

I don't really read much,
but I really like Sobue Akihito...
Tch.
Some people don't.
印刷室

Akui-san, you're always reading books.
Which ones do you like...?


We're talking
Whoa
I see
A bunch.

A bunch.

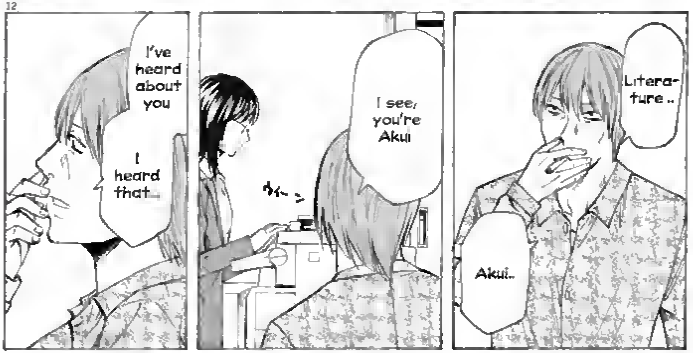
Hey.
ガラッ
ｶﾁｰﾝ

Four girls.
Well whatever.
I just came to smoke.
Uhh...
Well, don't worry about me
Wha-

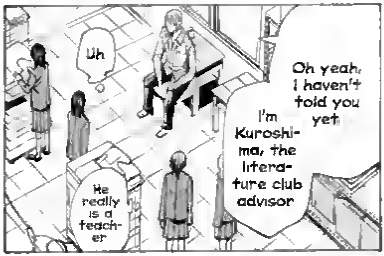
...he's actually smoking
Who is this guy?
A teach-er?
This school doesn't have a smoking room
and they told me I can't smoke outside for some reason

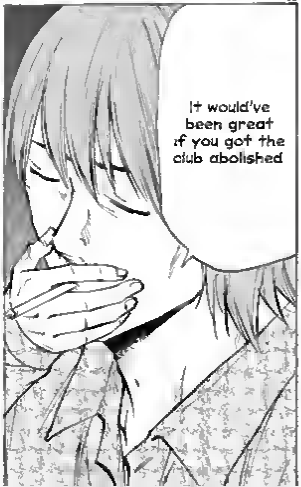
And...
Aku-san's the only one from the literature club
The drama club
What club are you from?

12


I've heard about you
I heard that...
I see, you're Akui
Liter-ature..
Akui..

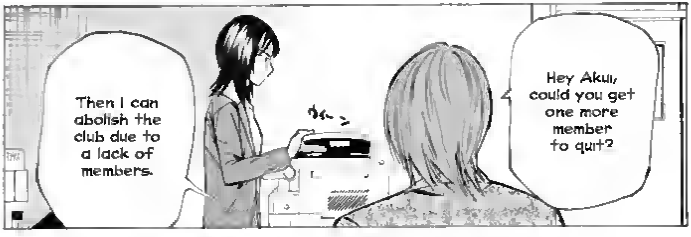
On the day of the entrance ceremony
you picked a fight with the club's members


Uh
He really is a teacher
Oh yeah, I haven't told you yet
I'm Kuroshima, the literature club advisor


It would've been great if you got the club abolished

Being a club advisor is just exhausting
Honestly...

I have to work overtime, and my pay doesn't get any better.
So it's basically free overtime

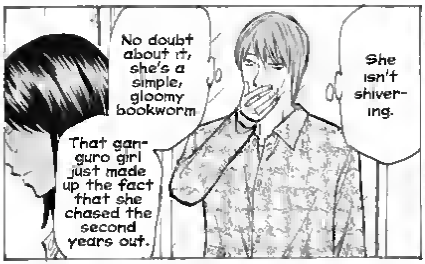

Hey Akui, could you get one more member to quit?
Then I can abolish the club due to a lack of members.

Aren't they harassing you by making you copy everything by yourself?
Or why don't you quit?
He's scary
He's just unbelievable
Is he really a teacher?

14

カチャ

Don't ignore me dammit.

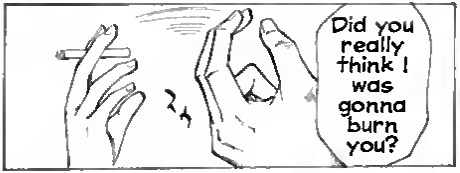

No doubt about it, she's a simple, gloomy bookworm
She isn't shivering.
That gan-guro girl just made up the fact that she chased the second years out.

If I push her a little further, will she actually leave..?
If you quit,
you'd help me a lot here...

Uh

Kid-ding, kid-ding!
You don't get scared at all.

Ku ku.


Did you really think I was gonna burn you?

There's no way I'd...

Aaa
aagh
...

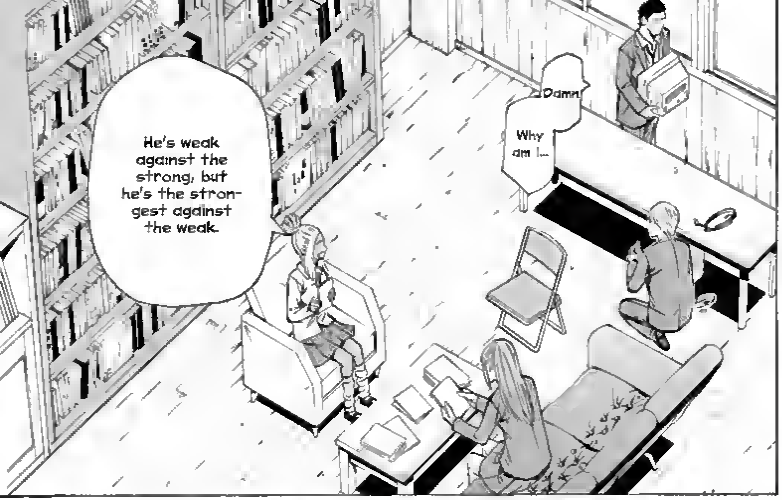
.....
...hey.

Kidding.

It may be a joke,
but I'll still do it.
Huh?
She pushed it really hard...

So cool...

What kind of person is Kurajima-sensei, specifically?

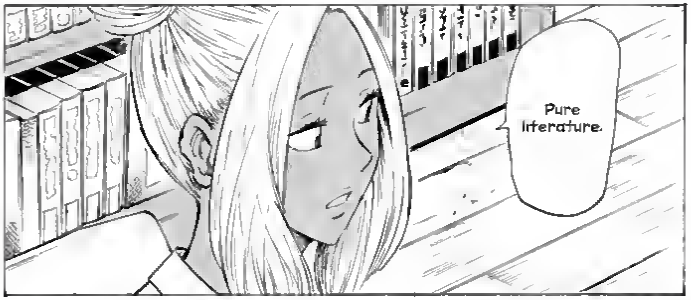

He's weak against the strong, but he's the strongest against the weak.
Why am I...
Damn!

Aaah, Kayo-chan, don't get near him!
You're the kinda girl he really likes to target.
Uhh...

Huh...
If you get involved with him, you should strike first
Then he'll become a little puppy.

What the heck
is Hibiki-san's story...?

It's super interesting..
There isn't any proper progression, no climax, no punchline..
But, how do I put this...
Is there a genre like that?


Pure literature.

Well, Hibiki-chan's story really felt like pure literature,
since she merely showed us the girl's world...

That's what I call it, but it really isn't since there isn't any proper progression.
Is that...
There's no clear definition for it

I'm just going to say this
.....

That girl
is so special, she's an anomaly.
Pure literature isn't interesting.
Hibiki-chan's stories are.

21

No, I wouldn't ...
That's why, don't even try to think about copying her.
Your story wasn't bad either, Kayo-chan

I'm done copying
Oh, thanks.

Okay, now take one page each,

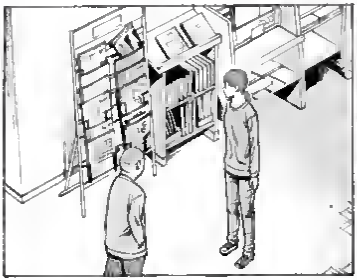
Did you come across any problems?
No, not really.

staple them together,

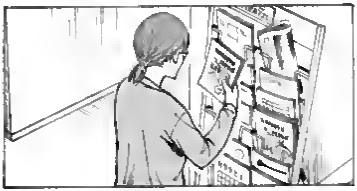
Hokuseto High School
Literature Club Journal
May Edition
and done.

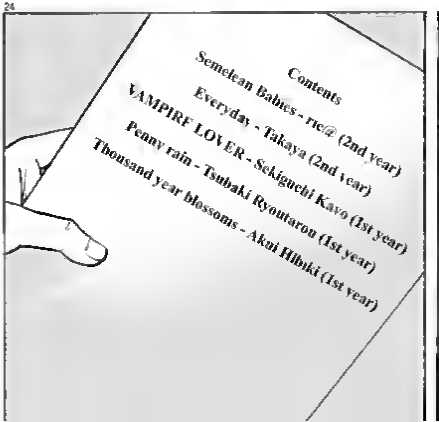
Whoa.
And repeat this 50 times
Then, it's done in a flash.
Well, nobody really reads them.
Wait, we're going to leave it in the library?
They're mostly there for old men and women to pass the time
We'll leave them in the leaflet counter in front of the staff room
and the distribution corner of the local library
Making 50 copies...
Are we going to distribute them?
23
People I don't know will read them.
I see

市立
柚木図書館



北瀬戸高等学校
文芸部部誌

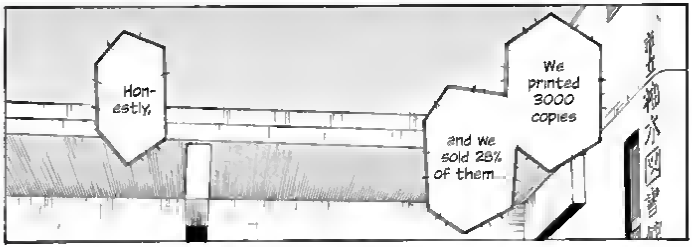


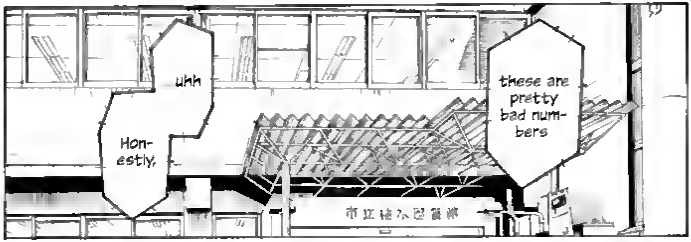

Contents
Semelean Babes - rie@ (2nd year)
Everyday - Takaya (2nd year)
VAMPIRE LOVER - Sekiguchi Kayo (1st year)
Peany rain - Tsubaki Ryoutarou (1st year)
Thousand year blossoms - Akui Hibiki (1st year)

パラ

9: Talent

The initial sales for 'A chance meeting in the afternoon' have come out


Honestly,
We printed 3000 copies
and we sold 28% of them


uhh
Honestly,
these are pretty bad numbers

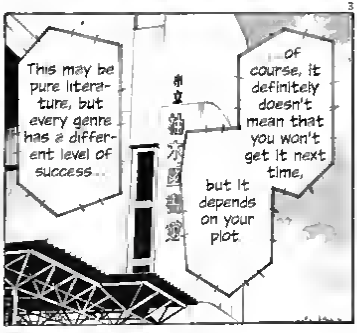
2

to get your books out under our label, Nakahara-san
next time
it might become harder

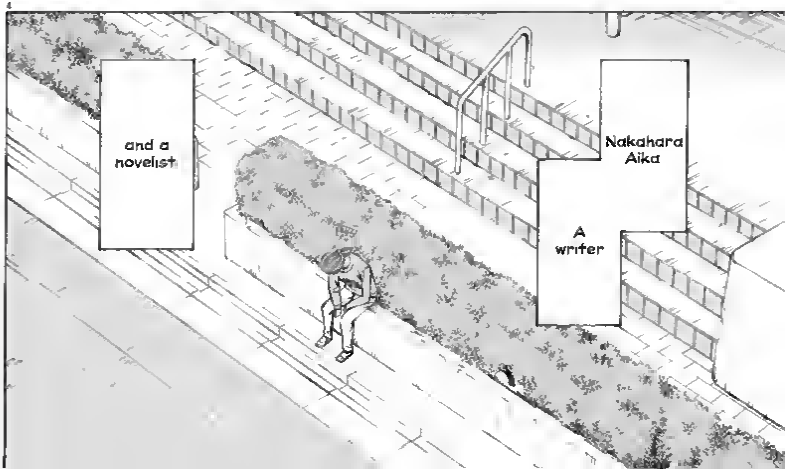
... is
that
so?

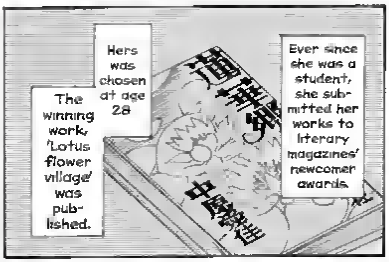
On top of
that, they
managed to
fail...
We printed
5000 copies
of your previ-
ous work, your
debut work,
and we sold
35%
Those
are also
pretty bad
numbers

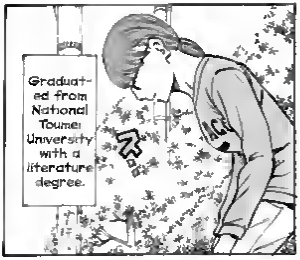
but we
have to
expect
certain
numbers...
Well,
you may
not really
like those
kinds of
genres,
though,


3
This may be
pure litera-
ture, but
every genre
has a differ-
ent level of
success...
...of
course, it
definitely
doesn't
mean that
you won't
get it next
time,
but it
depends
on your
plot

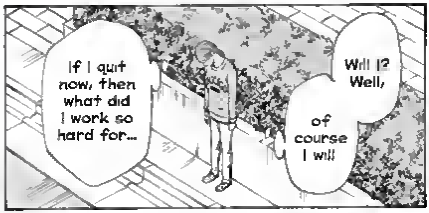
Is that so?
.....
..I will write
Next time
I'll do my best..
..okay
Okay, send your plot to me when you're done
I'll be waiting


and a novelist
Nakahara Aika
A writer


Hers was chosen at age 28
The winning work, 'Lotus flower village' was published.
Ever since she was a student, she submitted her works to literary magazines' newcomer awards.

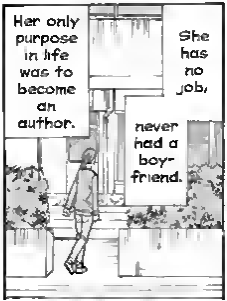

Graduated from National Toumei University with a literature degree.

her second work, 'A chance encounter in the afternoon', was published.
At age 30,


If I quit now, then what did I work so hard for...
Will I? Well,
of course I will

..will I
still write..?
CHICAGO

I came so far..
I became a pro
I have talent


Her only purpose in life was to become an author.
She has no job,
never had a boyfriend.

...what a young mother.
I wanna read it now.
Just wait for a month.

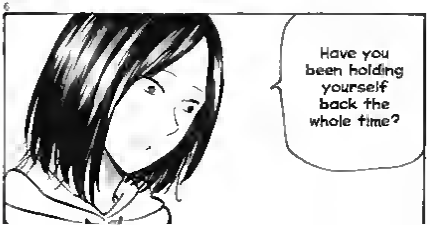
Her kid's pretty big...
I wonder if she's my age.

Ugh.
I mean, why do suddenly want a book now?

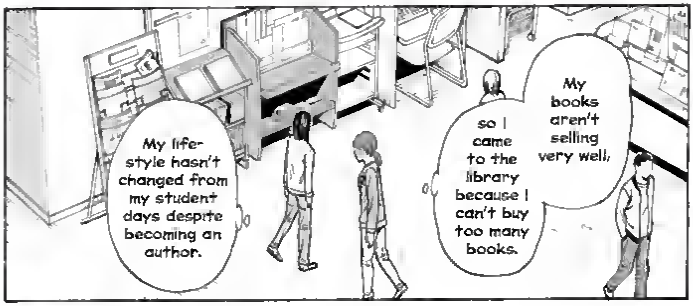
It wasn't in the library.
Buy it at a store.
Like I said, we made a reservation.

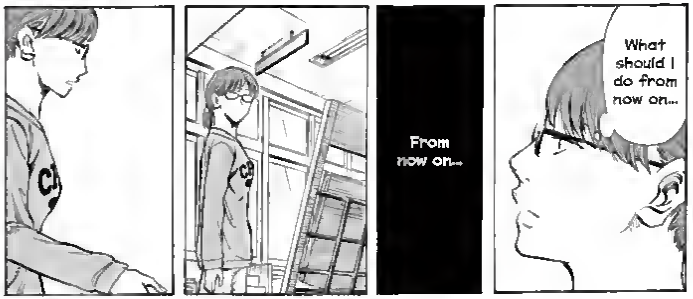
Oh..
I was just reading in the book-store up to now, but I can't do it anymore..
It wouldn't be strange to have a child that old...

...oh, yeah.
I'm already 30 years old.

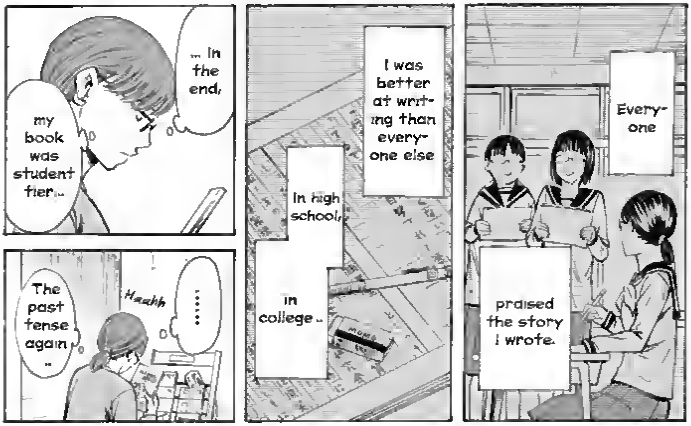

Have you been holding yourself back the whole time?

I never wrote any novels.
If
Maybe I might've ended up like her.
Really!?
Fine then, just one.
Nowadays I just want to shift all the blame onto the novels...
Crap..


My books aren't selling very well,
so I came to the library because I can't buy too many books.
My life-style hasn't changed from my student days despite becoming an author.

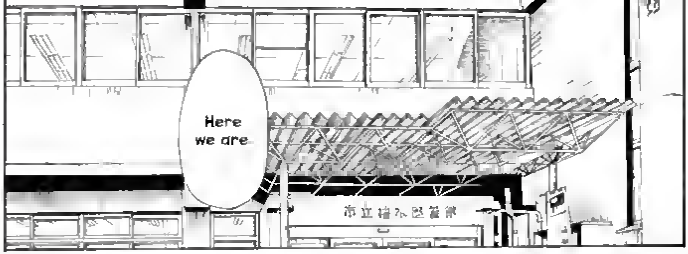

What should I do from now on...
From now on...

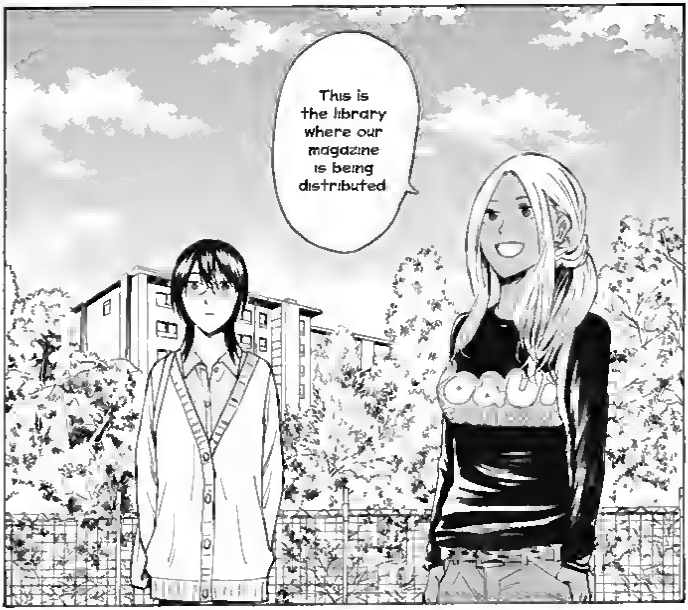
A high school literary journal.
How nostal-gic
I made some before, too,
in the literature club
with my pres...
Hokuseto High School
Literature club journal
May Edition


... In the end,
my book was student fier...
I was better at writing than everyone else
In high school,
in college...
Everyone
praised the story I wrote.
The past tense again...
Haahh
.....

I'll cheer myself up by reading some amateur work.
Thinking about it, I also wrote some terrible stuff in high school.

What I need now is confidence


Here we are
市立緑ヶ丘図書館

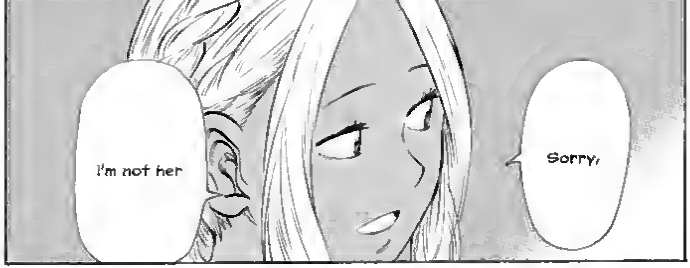

This is the library where our magazine is being distributed

Nope.
I bet you never came here before because it's far away from school, right?

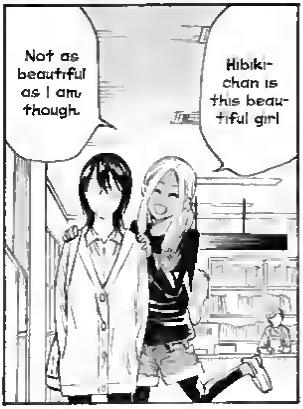
I also wanted to talk to you for a bit. Just between us.
Yeah.
The others don't seem to be very interested in libraries.
...am I the only one you called over?
Look, there's the distribution corner
They're already there
Oh, that's rare
A young gal is reading the magazine.

Hm...
Uh...
How is it, miss?
Is it interesting?
Ahh, we're the ones who made that journal.
We're from the Hokuseto High Literature club

Are you
Akui Hibiki-san...?


Sorry,
I'm not her

This 'Thousand year blossom' was written by you..?


Hibiki-chan is this beautiful girl
Not as beautiful as I am, though.

A kid..
This kid wrote...

Yeah

Did you..
plagiarize or something..?

No way
You're being rude right from the get go there
?

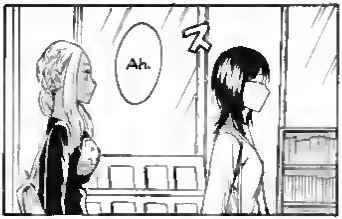
What..
Did I...
Just...

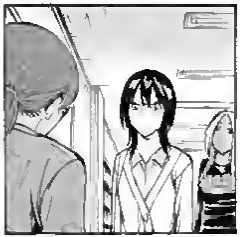
14

I never expected the author to be so young..
Your story, 'Thousand Year Blossom', was so inter-esting...
I want to die.

I'm so sorry!
I just...

No, no, Hibiki-chan.
Don't lay a hand on her.

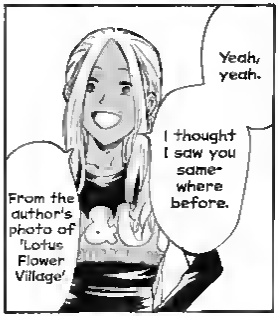

Ah.

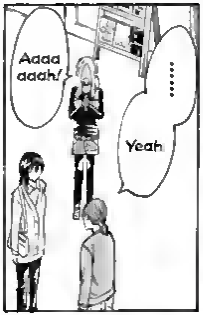


I want to die.
I want to die...
I was so envious of her talent,
I called it 'plagiarism'.

Nakahara...
CHICAG

Aika-san?


Yeah, yeah.
I thought I saw you some-where before.
From the author's photo of 'Lotus Flower Village'


Aaaa aaah!
.....
Yeah

16

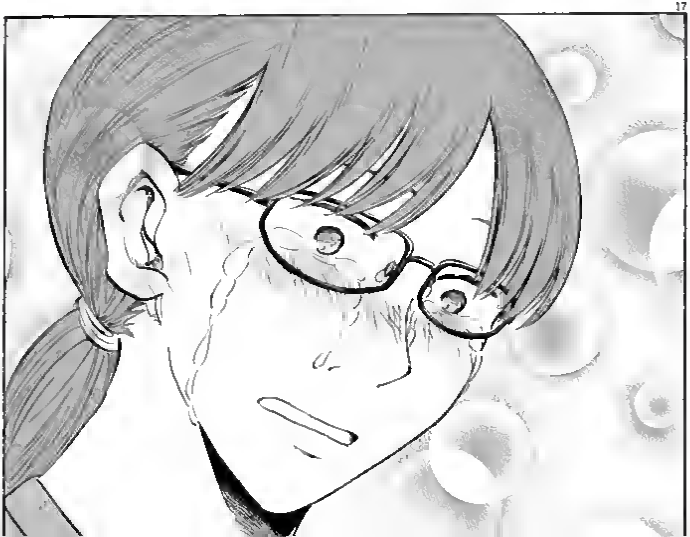
CHICACO

?
I read it.

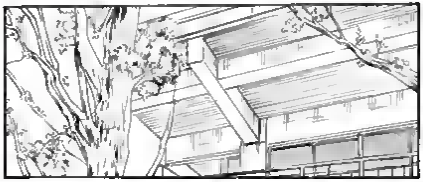
How do you know about that book?

...Shake
my hand
...please

ボロ
ボロ



Hey,
What's the matter?
What's wrong, miss author?
……



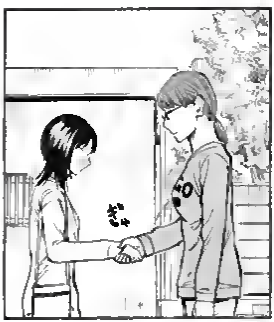
Huh?
ポロ
ポロ

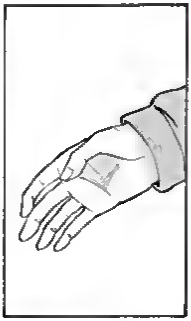
You're depressed…?

I'm sorry…
I was acting disgraceful.
ぐすっ

I'm really sorry.
I cried from joy..
N-no
That's not it.
No, it's fine.
Do you have a trauma about hand-shakes?
I really couldn't imagine you as a high schooler
Your 'Semelean Babies' was super interesting.
Yeah.
Uhh..
You're ric@-san, right?
Thanks
I'm mentioned after Hibiki-chan, huh.

Hibiki-san.
CHICAGO

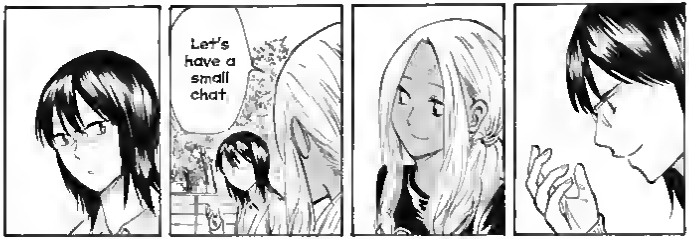




Good luck with your job!
GO

Okay.
Goodbye.

Oh, well congrats
It's the first time I've met an author
……
What a weird girl
That's an author for you.


Let's have a small chat

Editorial Department
03-52-

Yeah.
This is about the next work.
Hello, this is Nakahara.
Yes, I'm sorry about what happened earlier.

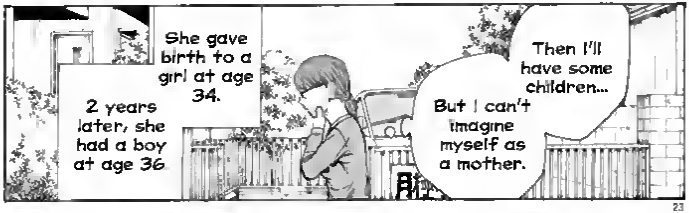
I give up.

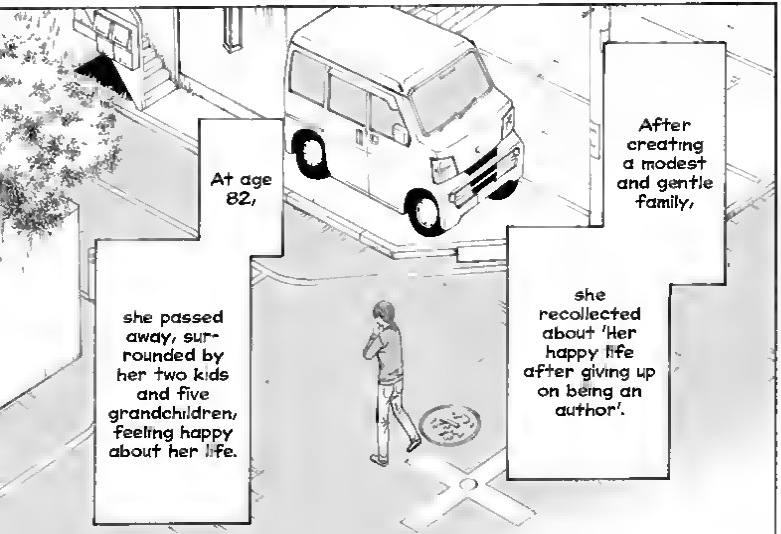
Author Nakahara Aika.
Retired.
And now, I don't really need it anymore...
I saw true talent.
I thought to myself, I lived my dream.

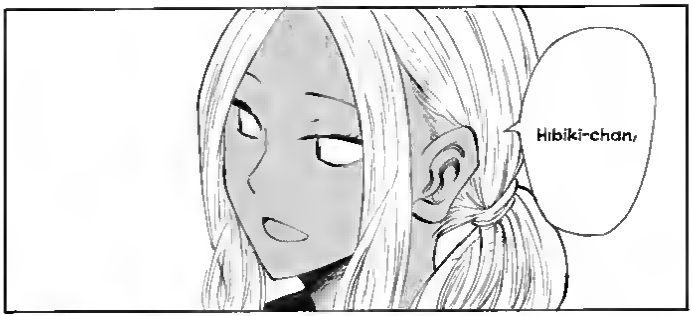
After retiring,
she worked at a nearby bakery.
I wasted ten years of my life.
Now I have to try and get a job.

.....
Thank you for everything.

Maybe I should think about getting married.
Half a year later, she began dating an office worker who frequented her shop.
2 years later, she got married at age 32.


Then I'll have some children...
But I can't imagine myself as a mother.
She gave birth to a girl at age 34.
2 years later, she had a boy at age 36.


After creating a modest and gentle family,
she recollected about 'Her happy life after giving up on being an author'.
At age 82,
she passed away, surrounded by her two kids and five grandchildren, feeling happy about her life.


Hibiki-chan,

do you want to become a novelist?

10: The future that lays ahead

This is about the next work.

I thought to myself, I lived my dream.
I saw true talent.

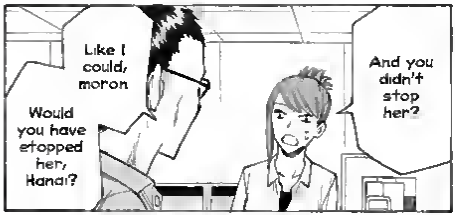
I give up.

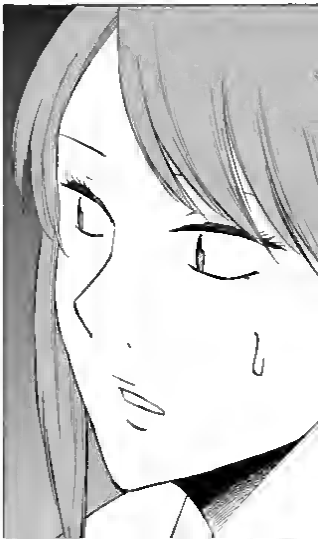
2

Nakahara-san's novels.
..but personally,
I wanted to read
then I
can't say anything irresponsible...
...Nakahara-san, if you wish to do so,
Even if you can't sell now,
next time...
I think I'm satisfied with having become a professional author.
I figured out that I can't make stories that can sell
Oh, no.
Ootsubo-san, I was just being a burden to you...
I didn't do enough..
...I'm very sorry
...thank you for everything.

Naka-
hara-
san
is really
quitting.

Until
a while
ago.
It seems
she had a
change of
heart.
Wasn't she
writing a
plot for
her next
work?


Like I
could,
moron
Would
you have
stopped
her,
Hana?
And you
didn't
stop
her?

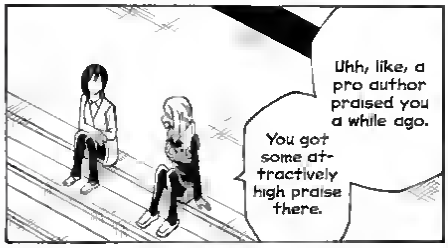


I also
tried to
stop her
as her
reader.
That's not
what I'm
talking about.
You said that
you wanted
to read her
next work,
as one of
her readers.
I can't stop
her. We can't
even guaran-
tee that we
can publish
her next
work!

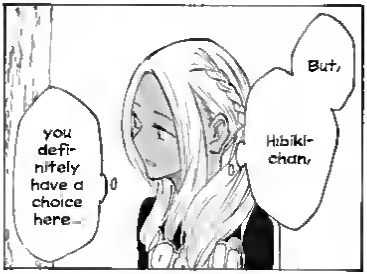
You can't survive in the novelist business just by title alone.
Your books have to sell or else you can't make a living.
I have to give an author I enjoy her final notice.
Haaa aaah.
Being an editor is a shitty job.

Hibiki-chan,

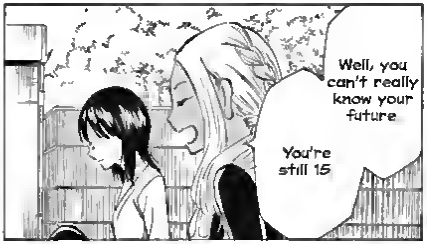
do you want to become a novelist?

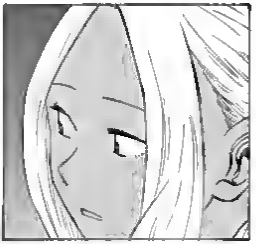

Uhh, like, a pro author praised you a while ago.
You got some attractively high praise there.

..why?


But,
Hibiki-chan,
you definitely have a choice here.

...I dunno.
I never really thought about it


Well, you can't really know your future.
You're still 15.

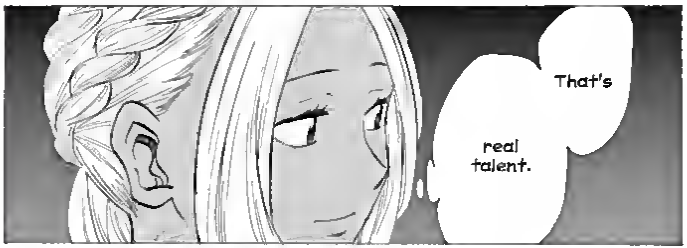


...yup.

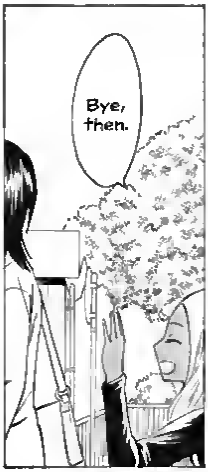
I only saw one short story,
but I know that this girl has an abnormal sense.

Telling her to strive to become an author goes beyond what's expected of a club president

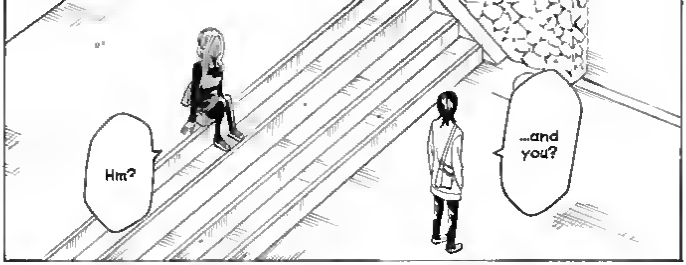
She can truly create a new world.


That's real talent.

Now she can worry about her future as much as she likes.
Well, she's a girl who really likes books.
No matter what path she takes, she'll end up as an author.

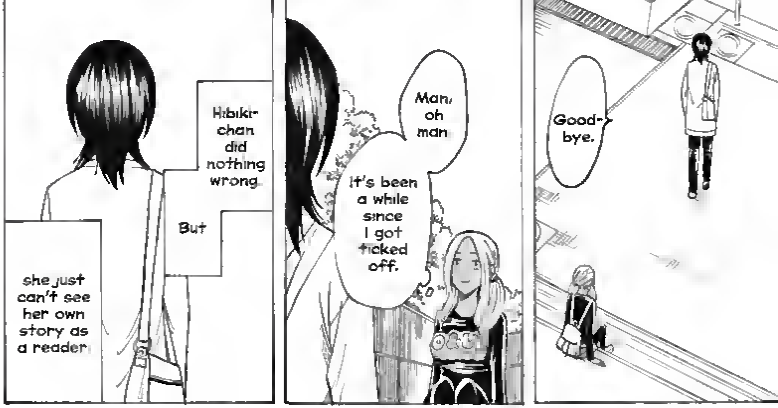

Bye, then.

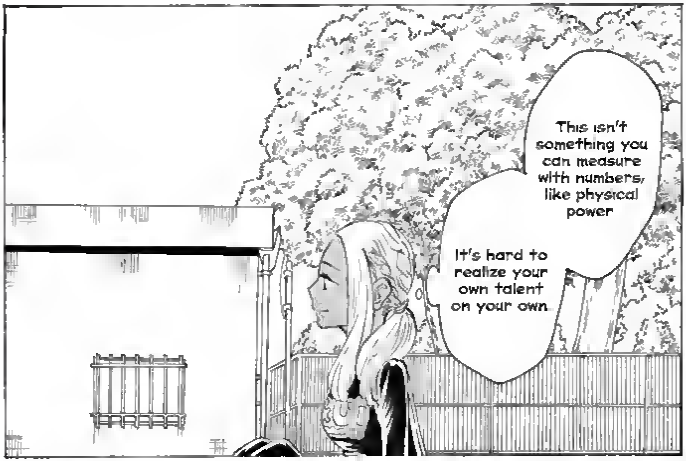
...I'll go home now.
Oh, really?

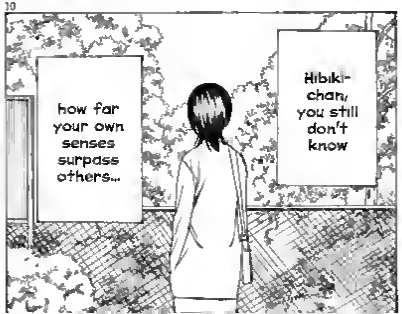

Hm?
...and you?

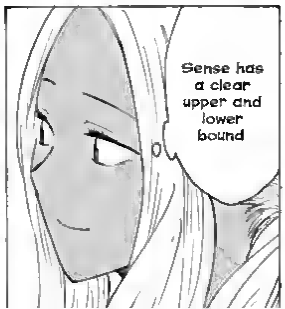
Do you want to be a novelist?

It just feels like a completely different world.
Maaan, I can't be a pro.
.....

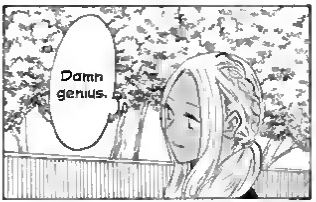

Hibiki-chan did nothing wrong.
But
she just can't see her own story as a reader.
Man, oh man.
It's been a while since I got ticked off.
Good-bye.


This isn't something you can measure with numbers, like physical power
It's hard to realize your own talent on your own.


how far your own senses surpass others...
Hibiki-chan, you still don't know


Sense has a clear upper and lower bound

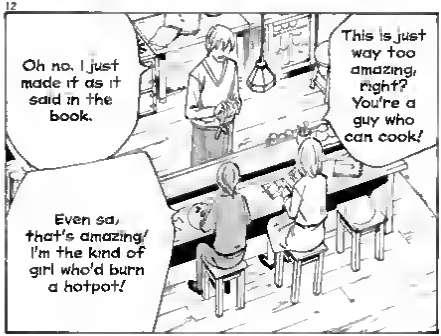
and how huge the difference is between you and me.


Damn genius.

I wonder what direction she'll head from now on...

No waaay, did you make this cake?

12

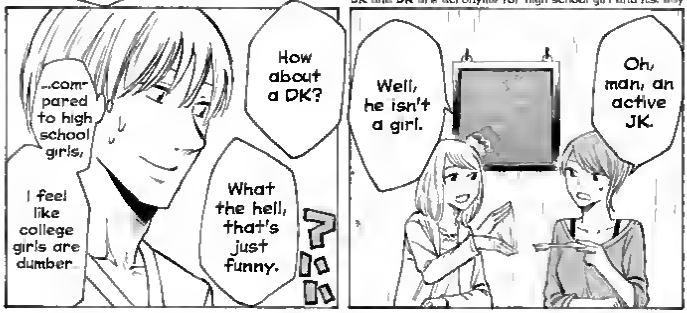

Oh no. I just made it as it said in the book.
This is just way too amazing, right? You're a guy who can cook!
Even so, that's amazing! I'm the kind of girl who'd burn a hotpot!

Yeah, I guess...

I never expected to find such a fashionable cafe in this normal city
Maaan, we really found a jewel in the rough here
I have school on the week-days so only on Saturday.
Ryoutar-ou-kun, when are your shifts?
I'll come over when you're here
Well now, hahaha "
And it comes with a hot shop attendant
Ah, well, I'm in high school.
Wow, you would look so good in girl's clothes.
Maybe we go to the same college
Where's it at?
By the way, we go to Omi Girls College.
Ahhh, so you're a college boy

No waaaay, you serious!?
You're the first nice and mature high schooler I've ever met!
What year? What year?
...a first year.
And you're a first year in high school!

JK and DK are acronyms for high school girl and h.s. boy


How about a DK?
...compared to high school girls,
I feel like college girls are dumber.
What the hell, that's just funny.
Well, he isn't a girl.
Oh, man, an active JK.

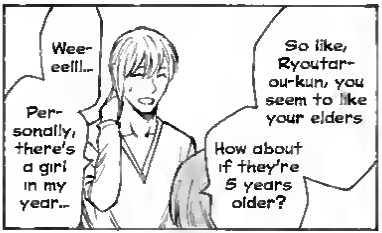
There's only one bite of cake left and I can't hold my fork...
Fine, I'll use my last resort.
I'm actually like a super rich lady, so I can't hold anything heavier than chopsticks...
And it looks like my wrists can't even handle the weight of a fork...
...what's wrong?
.....
Ryoutaro-kun may be a high schooler, but I can totally take him out.
Ugh.

Aaaaaah.
Whoo! Whoo!
Aa ah.
Mmmmh.

So goood.
Ahaha, Ryoutaro-kun, you're providing too much service.

No.

Hey, hey, hey, so like, do you have a girlfriend right now?

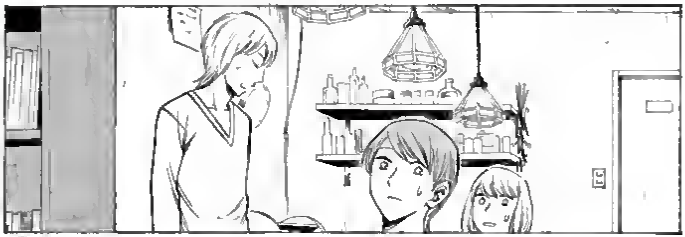

So like, Ryoutaro-kun, you seem to like your elders
How about if they're 5 years older?
Wee-eell...
Personally, there's a girl in my year...

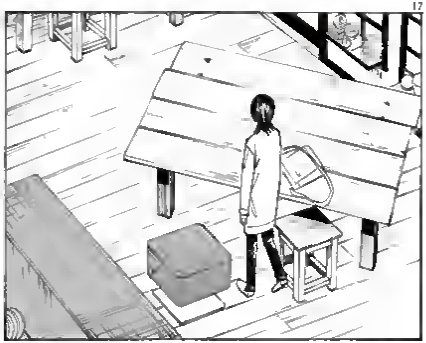
I also...
That's like totally destiny!
feel like I'm free.
I'm also, like, miraculously free now.

16

No waaay, so am I like, no good?
I often get mistaken for a high school girl.

ドガ

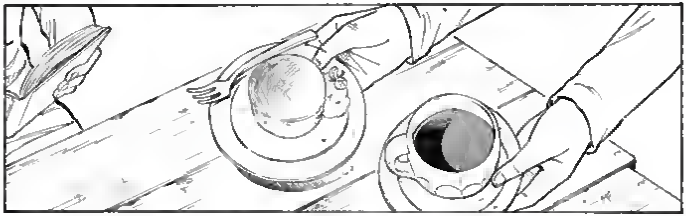




Ryoutaro-ou-kun, an awful customer just came in.
She seems like super unfriendly...
You know her?
Yeah.

That's the girl I have a one sided crush on.

He's hot, tall, and can cook.
He's a sure runner up.
His tastes in women are, like, fucking terrible.
Thank you very much.



Whee-eeww.

Did you go somewhere today?
...the library with Rika.
With Rika-san?
We met a novelist.
Oh?
Nakahara Aika-san.
Nakahara...
Ohh, the one who wrote the book you're reading
Oh? So did you actually meet the author!?
That's awesame!
...yeah

She was reading the literature club journal
and she said that my novel was interesting

Huuuh.
I imagined authors as twisted people,
but they actually care about others.

...I guess so.

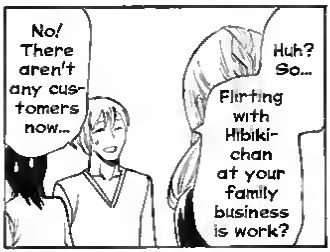
Aaaa aaah.

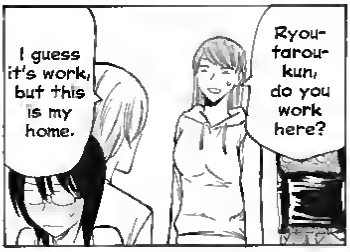
カラン
カラン
ガチャ
Hey theeere!

Huh?
Wah!

and I was wondering where she was going after we parted
so I kinda followed..
I met Hibiki-chan a while ago
why're you here?
Rika-san,
Takaya-san, Kayo-chan,

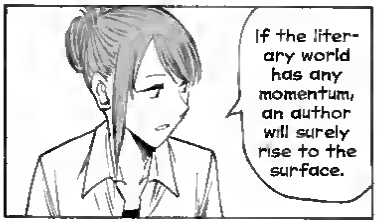
Ahh, I don't have my phone during work...
I called your phone, too.
We're going to a cafe, and I just wanted to get everyone together.


No! There aren't any customers now...
Huh? So... Flirting with Hibiki-chan at your family business is work?


I guess it's work, but this is my home.
Ryou-tarou-kun, do you work here?

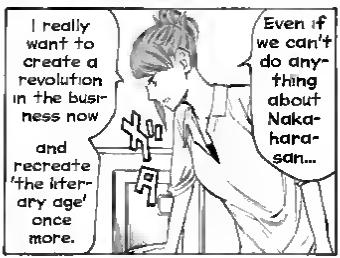
We aren't doing anything!
No, we don't do this all the...
Ryou-ta-kun, there's a place for everything.
Do you two act like this all the time if there aren't any customers?

I guess it's a plain work...
Nakahara-san's novel is actually the type of pure literature which can confuse readers with its literary style.


If the literary world has any momentum, an author will surely rise to the surface.

I guess it's the kind of book that would never sell...

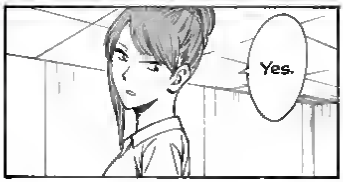
What for?
The editor in chief is now in the smoking room
I'll head over there.


I really want to create a revolution in the business now
and recreate 'the literary age' once more.
Even if we can't do anything about Nakahara-san...

A direct appeal.

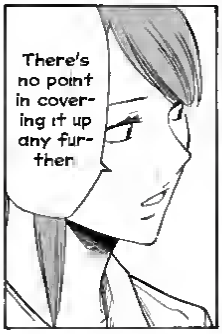
11: The literary age

A direct appeal to the editor in chief...


Yes.

Is this about Akui Hibiki?

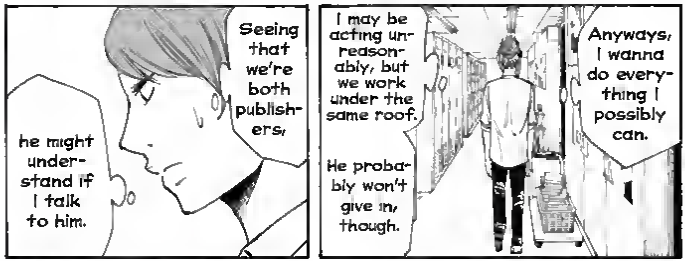
Well, yeah...

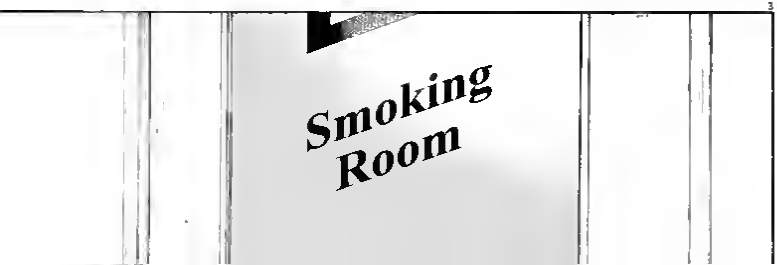

There's no point in covering it up any further.

I tried to look into her, but I didn't get anything
She...
probably won't contact us anymore, either.

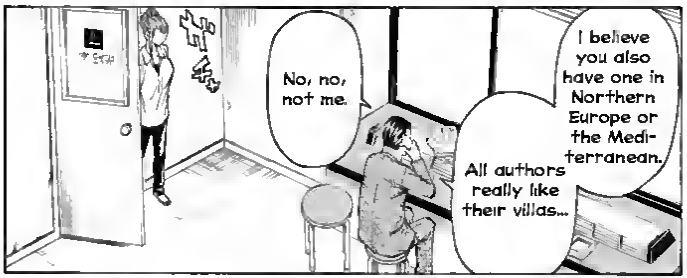
Yeah.
Hanai.
Thinking about it realistically, you're right...

Okay!
It's impossible to convince the old man. I'm sure of that.
But, well, do your best.


Seeing that we're both publishers,
he might understand if I talk to him.
I may be acting unreasonably, but we work under the same roof.
He probably won't give in, though.
Anyways, I wanna do everything I possibly can.


Smoking Room

I envy you. You have a villa in Shounan?
Ahahahah.


No, no, not me.
I believe you also have one in Northern Europe or the Mediterranean.
All authors really like their villas...

I'm sorry, excuse me for a bit.

No, it can wait until after your call.
In a rush?

Editors are just office wrkers.
The best we can do is build a cramped house with a garden using a loan.

Hello.
Well, I'm very sorry, but it seems my subordinate has some kind of emergency.
Yes, excuse me.
I'll call you back right away.
Oh dear, Hanai-chan.
You're telling me it isn't an emergency, but if you're going to be blatantly waiting, I can't help getting curious.
...I'm very sorry.
5
So, what is it?
It was a pretty important phone call.

We all talked about it together in the last meeting.
Is this about entrusting the second round to outsiders?

Talked about it together?

Yeah.
...no, this is different.

...it's about the newcomer awards.

Huh, I'm looking forward to it.

...but it isn't just a masterpiece...

was a *masterpiece*.

I read a number of applicants for the newcomer awards
and among them, only one

'Solar Eclipse'... the maiden work of Hirano Keiichirou. Won the Akutagawa Prize.
'Snakes and Earrings'... the maiden work of Kaneshita Hitomi. Won the Akutagawa prize.
'Almost Transparent Blue'...the maiden work of Murakami Ryuu. Won the Akutagawa prize.

'Solar eclipse', 'Snakes and Earrings', and 'Almost transparent blue'...

It's even more sensational than those works.

Now I'm looking forward to it even more.

So?

...but

there's one problem.

It looks like the author forgot to write her details.

Address, phone number, and any sort of contact address...

Oh I see, that's too bad.

So?

.....

An exception...

Hanai-chan...

If that masterpiece makes it to the final round,
what'll you do?

If it wins, what'll you do?
.....

We don't have any right to publish works without the author's consent.
The author also has the right not to publicize their works.
Even though we can't get the author's contact, it won't be a problem until later...
The copyright belongs to the author,
but we have the right to publish it under the application rules.

..it really is a miracu-lous work.
So what about copy-right?
I think it's just an extremely trivial problem.
This can create a revolution in the literary world
Yeah, well.
It really is too bad.

Ah...

...Hanai-chan.
I...
I'm very sorry...

Ah...

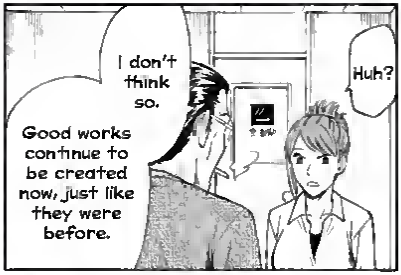
Hey, hey.
Calm down, calm down.

twitch

Uh...
Hanai-chan, so what's this revolution in the literary world that you're talking about?

You see, I'm going to rouse the business, which is now in recession...
and create 'the literary age' once more.

...I'm very sorry.
Yeah.


Good works continue to be created now, just like they were before.
I don't think so.
Huh?

Receding, is it?

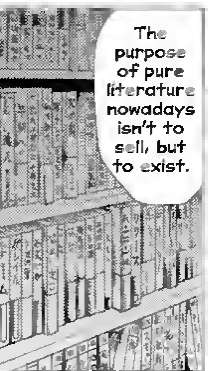
Ahahaha.
But the number of books printed have decreased compared to 30 years ago.

Yeah, figured. Man, that shocked me.
That's not what I'm saying!!

I see.
Hanai-chan, your process of thought says that things will go well if they sell.

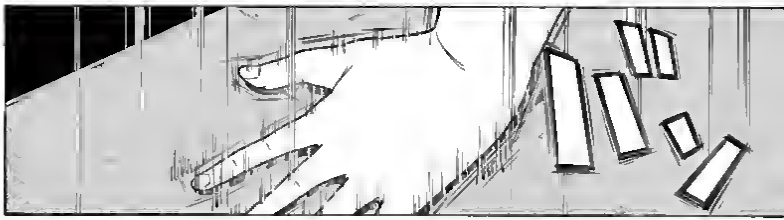
Kanai-chan,

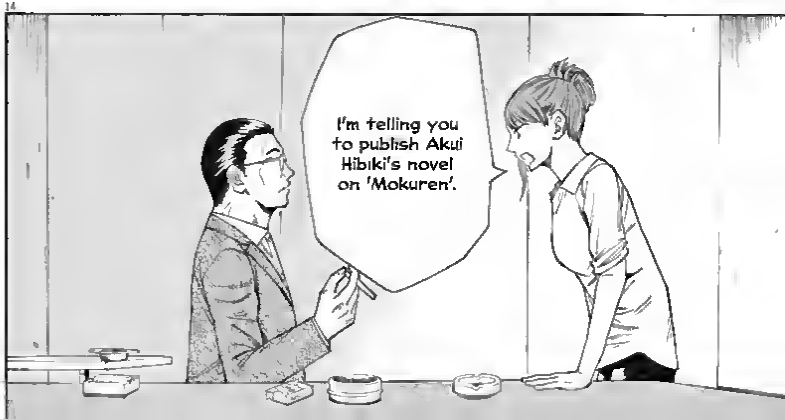
literature,
above all, pure literature, is an art.


The purpose of pure literature nowadays isn't to sell, but to exist.

The age when literature had to sell is long past.
Indeed, there was a 'literary age' long ago,
but that was back in a time when there wasn't any other form of entertainment.

Our job is to keep them existing as the 'art' which lays the foundation of culture



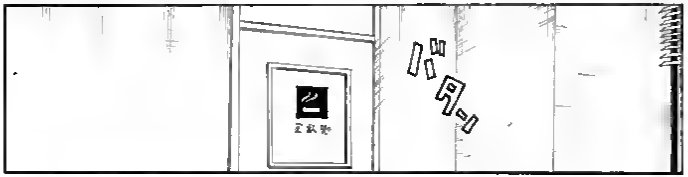

I'm telling you to publish Akui Hibiki's novel on 'Mokuren'.

'Pure literature is an art' is not an answer.
Like I said,
the only thing I can say about that is 'too bad'.
Are you done? I just want to continue my phone call.
.....
Editor in chief.
Yes?

Just because you couldn't make it happen
doesn't mean you get to think I can't do it.

!
So the newbie's name is Akui Hibiki?

If it doesn't meet them all, we'll drop it on the spot.
we'll determine if it satisfies the application requirements.
If her work makes it past the first round next week,


ピーピー

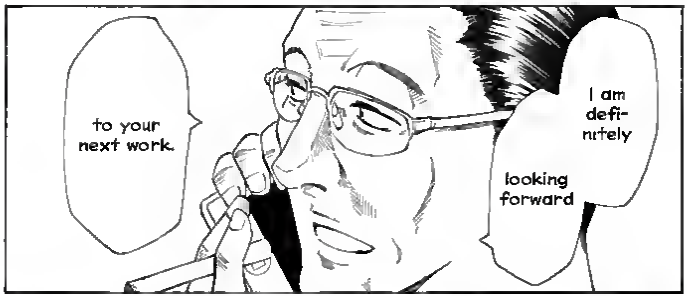
Pff.

Hello?
Hello, it's Kanda

Sobue-san.
I'm so sorry for cutting our phone call midway a while ago,
Is there any trouble involving some author?
It's troubling, but it's completely on our side.
Well, nothing really important.
What did your subordinate have to say?
You know her. She gets the scripts from your place.
See, it's my subordinate Hanai.
Yeah.
Ohh, the one with the big boobs.
Oh dear.
What happened?

Authors would say stuff like that.
That's fine, right? If it's interesting, just let it pass.
Oh...
So yeah...
And the editor's job is to regulate that talent and then send it out to the world
It's their job to have a flexible imagination.
Well whatever. That's what authors do.
Yeah, I told you that's the problem.
can't you talk to the author about this?
Yes?
Kanda-san,
since you guys always want to oppose society...
If we go along with the author's whim, everything will be in chaos and this job will vanish,

Maaan, it was amazing.
Sobue Akihito, you're 50 years old, and yet you're breaking new grounds.
More importantly, back to the main topic.
I read the White Zouerat.


to your next work.
I am definitely looking forward

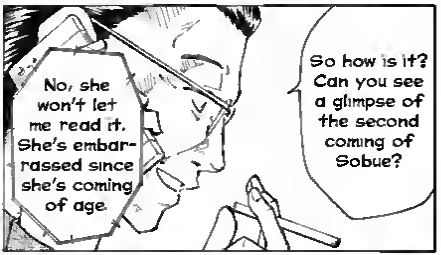
Yeah.
and the newcomer awards committee. Good luck.
Well anyways, what is urgent here is the serialization column

The newcomer award..

Thank you very much
I'll remember that.

Ohh, that girl...
It seems like my girl is writing novels in her high school club

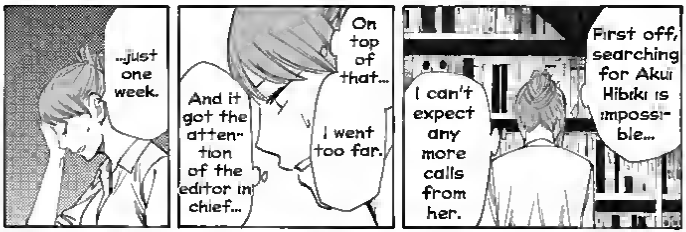
But as her father, I'm kinda curious about what she wrote.


No, she won't let me read it. She's embarrassed since she's coming of age.
So how is it? Can you see a glimpse of the second coming of Sobue?

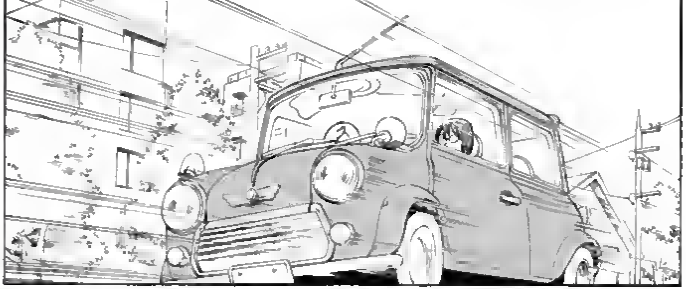
Were you actually being serious?
...a little.
...you serious?
Not really.
Could you publish it on 'Mokuren'?
Ahaha, I don't mind. I would welcome a second generation Sobue.

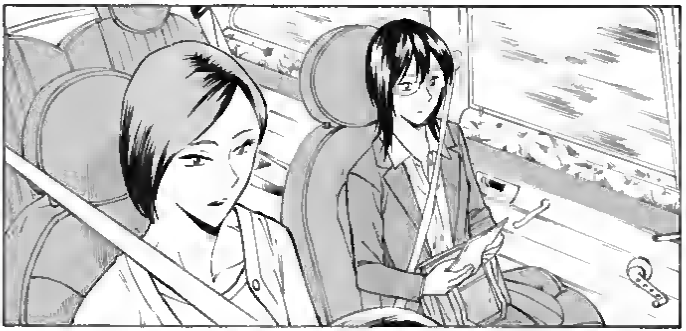
Same for you, Kanda-san.
A real editor in chief.
...you're a daddy now, Sobue-kun.
Yeah.
We're getting old, you and I.
...oh, yeah.
It's been a while since I heard that.
Ok, see you.
Then that's about it.

'The literary age',
huh.


First off, searching for Akui Hibiki is impossible...
I can't expect any more calls from her.
On top of that...
I went too far.
And it got the attention of the editor in chief...
...just one week.

I'm done for...



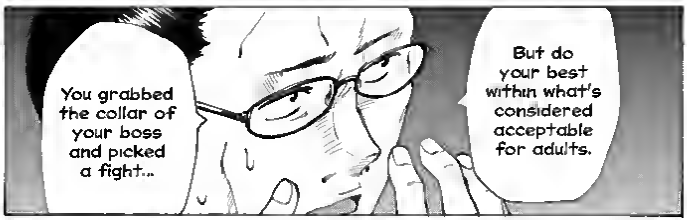


Where're we going,
Hokuseto High School
Literature Club Journal

mom?

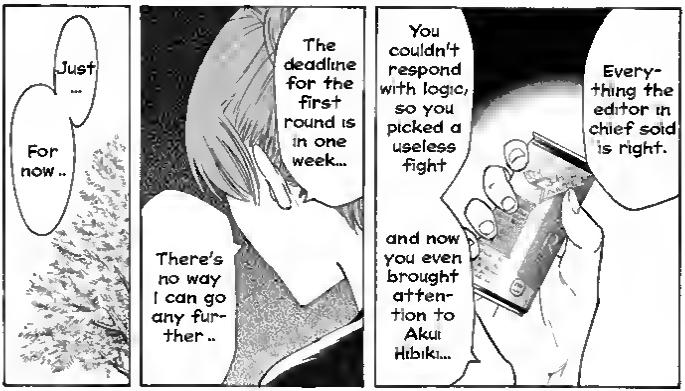
12: Last name

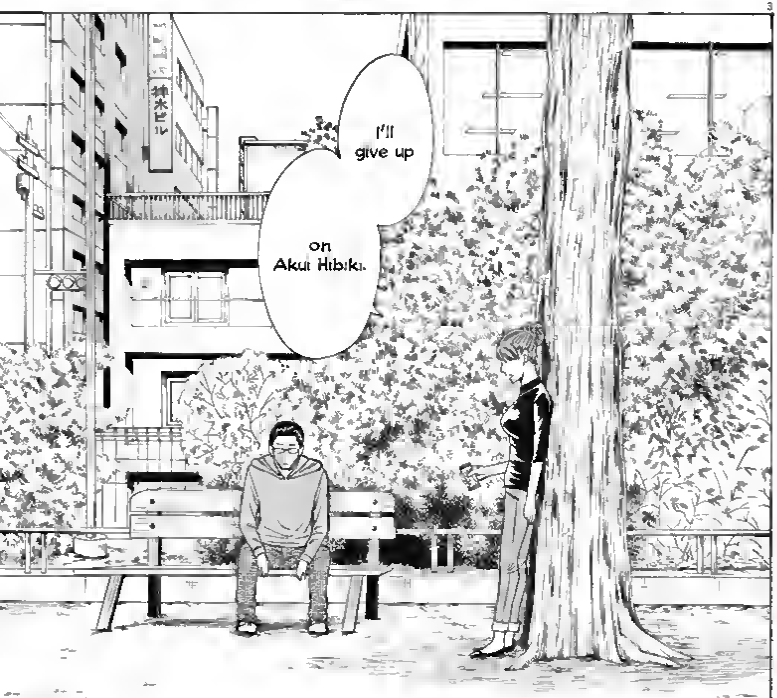
Shoten
I told you to do your best...


You grabbed the collar of your boss and picked a fight...
But do your best within what's considered acceptable for adults.

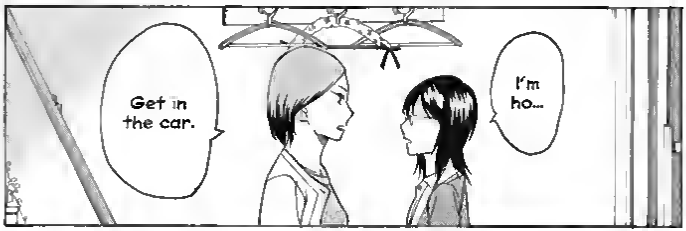
...
That's enough.
.....
I'm sorry.
Huh?
What, I talked because you asked, and now you're lecturing me?
I'll grab your collar too, Ootsubo-san.

響～小説家になる方法～2


Just ...
For now..
The deadline for the first round is in one week...
There's no way I can go any further..
You couldn't respond with logic, so you picked a useless fight
and now you even brought attention to Akui Hibiki...
Everything the editor in chief said is right.

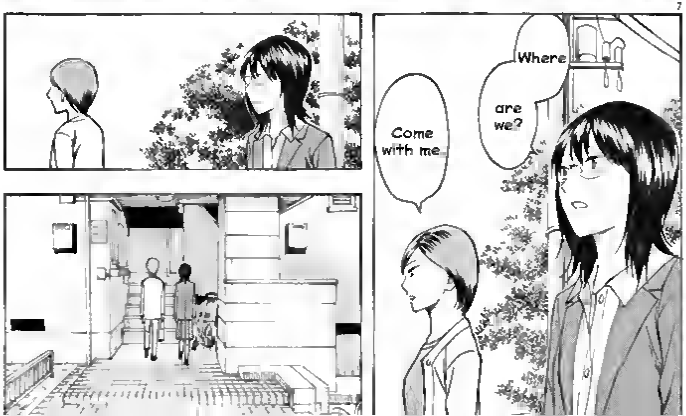

I'll give up on Akui Hibiki.

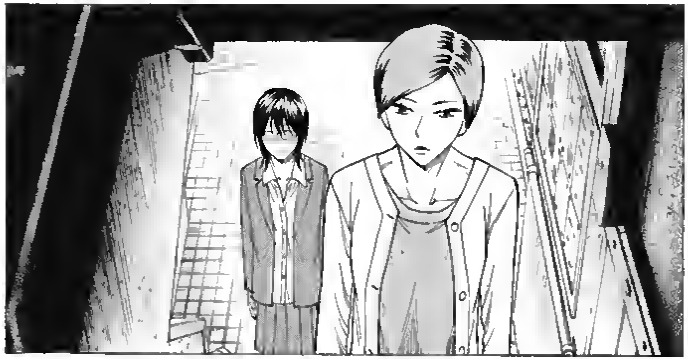
AKUI


Get in the car.
I'm ho...

Where are we going,
mom?
cto High School
erature Club Journal
May Edition

Get off.
!


Where are we?
Come with me



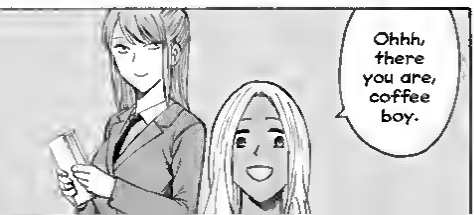
Rika-san,
If you've read Sobue Akihito before, which book would you recommend?

Kayo-chan, are you interested in Sobue's novels?
Uhh... after reading Hibiki-san's story, I found pure literature interesting,
and Sobue Akihito is the most famous pure literature author,
so I am kind of interested.
As long as Sobue wrote it, it doesn't matter which one you pick

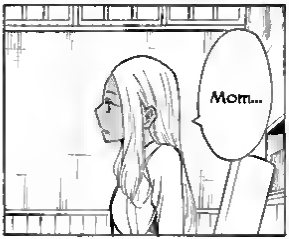
because they say that 'everything he writes is interesting'. He truly is one of a kind.

Hello there.
Since you're interested, how about reading his first work?
Huh? What was that?

Ohh, that's awesome.
It pretty much is.
Well, those kind of people should be the only ones who write novels.


Ohhh, there you are, coffee boy.

Oh, where's Hibiki-chan?
Did she go buy another book?
No, she went home.

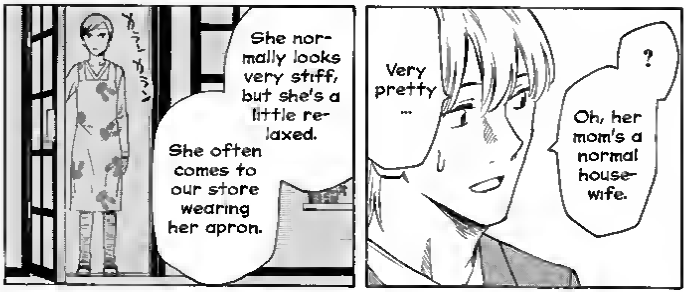

Mom...

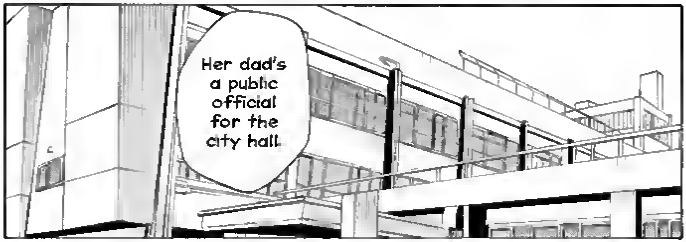
I don't really know why,
but her mother told her to come home right away.

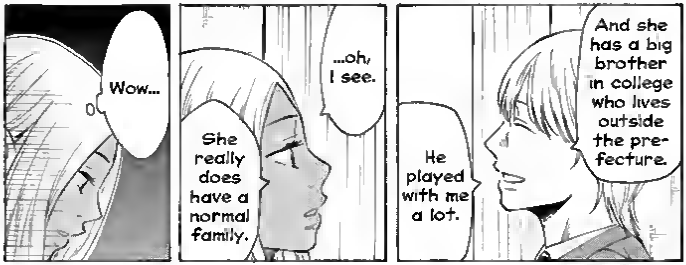
What kinda family does Hibiki-chan have?

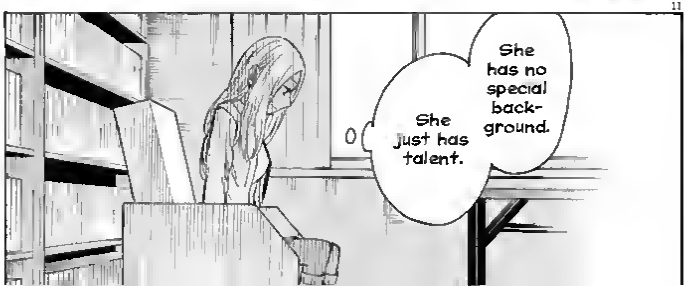
What do they do?

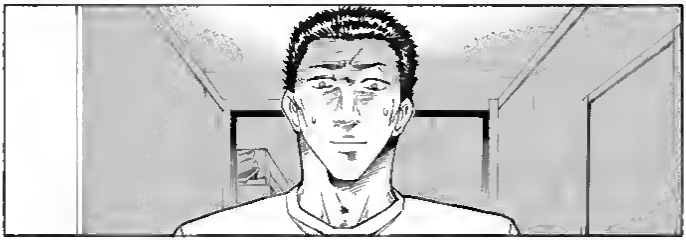
Her family doesn't run any store,
they're just...
normal parents.


She normally looks very stiff, but she's a little relaxed.
She often comes to our store wearing her apron.
Very pretty...
?
Oh, her mom's a normal housewife.


Her dad's a public official for the city hall.

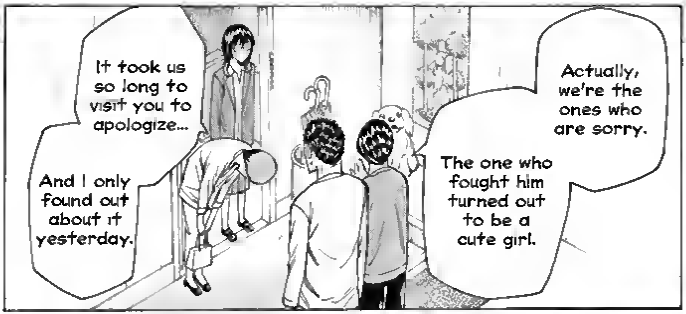

Wow...
She really does have a normal family.
...oh, I see.
He played with me a lot.
And she has a big brother in college who lives outside the prefecture.


She has no special background.
She just has talent.



12

No, no, no, no need, Akui-san.
We talked on the phone, so don't worry about it.
My Hibiki got into a really big fight with your Takaya, which resulted in her breaking his bones...
Even though it happened a month ago...

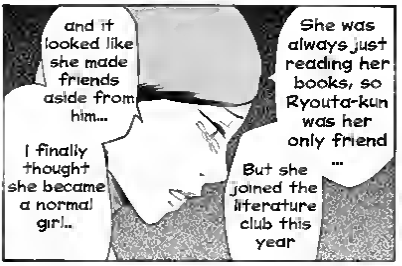

It took us so long to visit you to apologize...
And I only found out about it yesterday.
Actually, we're the ones who are sorry.
The one who fought him turned out to be a cute girl.

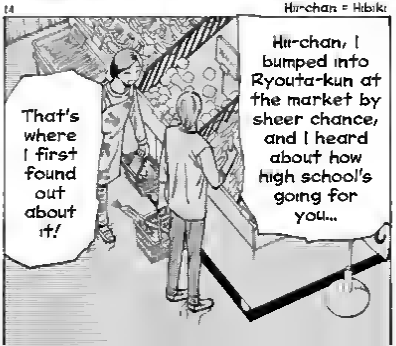
I didn't...
Wait old lady, what the hell's happening here...
I mean, Takaya was the one who made a stab at Hibiki-chan.
Seriously, don't worry about it.

This girl... is a little strange in some respects,
but she's a really nice girl.

I'm so sorry about my child, Takaya-kun...
.....
See? You heard that? He called me an old lady.
Normally he just says ma, but he puts on airs in front of his friends.

And she hid it from me...
..hey
..
I never thought.. She would get into a fight with someone

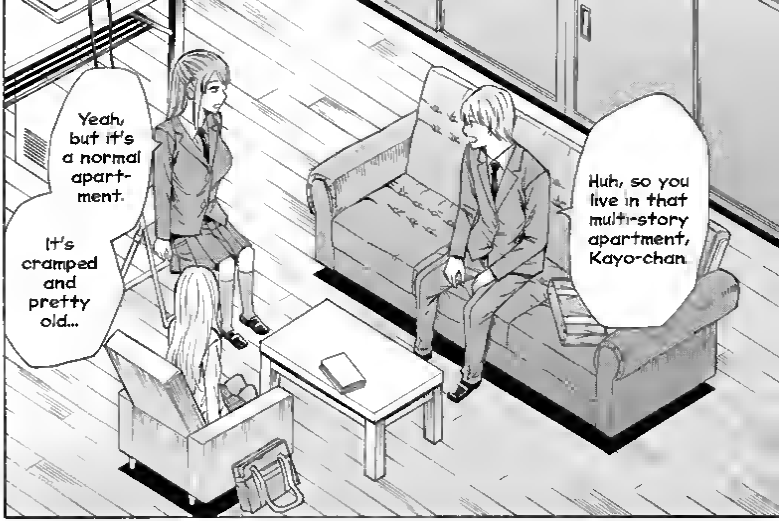

and it looked like she made friends aside from him...
I finally thought she became a normal girl..
She was always just reading her books, so Ryouta-kun was her only friend ...
But she joined the literature club this year

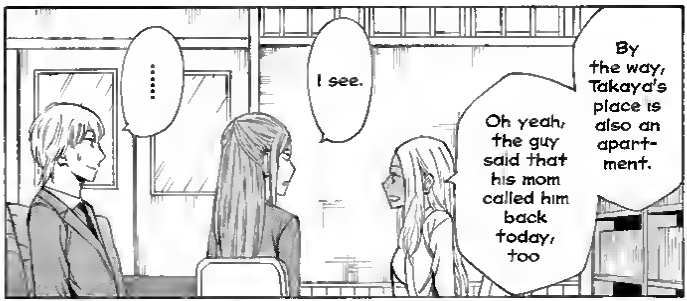

That's where I first found out about it!
Hir-chan, I bumped into Ryouta-kun at the market by sheer chance, and I heard about how high school's going for you...

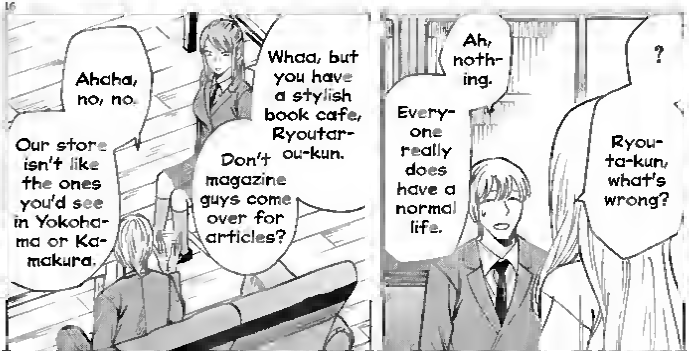
Don't 'how do you know' me! Why aren't you telling me about important events!?
..how do you know about this?

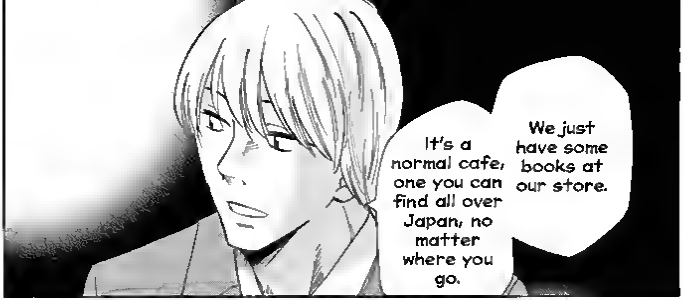
That ass.

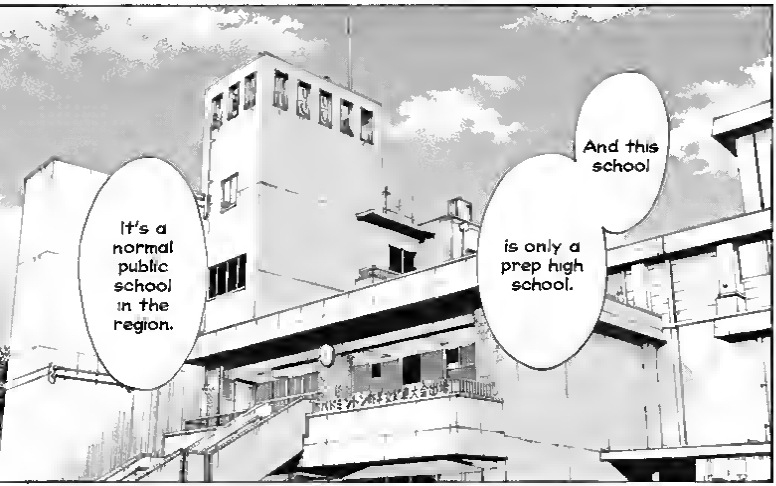
No, no, I can't accept all this.
Besides, Takaya does some weird things..
No, I don't.
This may not be enough to make amends.
And I will pay for the medical expenses.


Huh, so you live in that multi-story apartment, Kayo-chan.
Yeah, but it's a normal apart-ment.
It's cramped and pretty old...


By the way, Takaya's place is also an apart-ment.
Oh yeah, the guy said that his mom called him back today, too
I see.
.....


Ah, noth-ing.
Every-one really does have a normal life.
?
Ryou-ta-kun, what's wrong?
Whaa, but you have a stylish book cafe, Ryoutar-ou-kun.
Don't magazine guys come over for articles?
Ahaha, no, no.
Our store isn't like the ones you'd see in Yokoha-ma or Ka-makura.


We just have some books at our store.
It's a normal cafe, one you can find all over Japan, no matter where you go.


And this school is only a prep high school.
It's a normal public school in the region.

So, Rika-san, what's your house like?
An apartment? A single house?

Getting good rapport from magazines and TV is something we'd probably never get to experience.

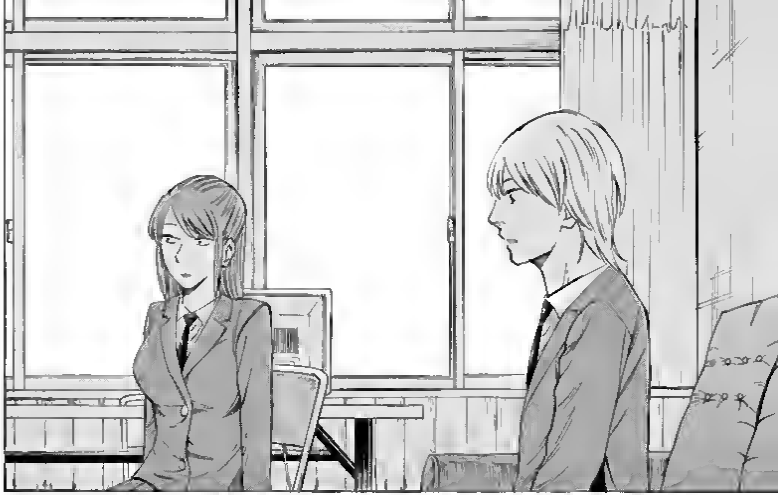
A mansion.

Ah...
You sure?
Do you have a famous family..?
If you want, why don't you come over?
We have a lot of books

Oh, I never told you?
Me neither ...
Oh, yeah...
I don't even know your last name, Rika-san.

My name is...
Yeah
Old?
I try not to say it much because it's old and lame.
Kidding

Sobue
Rika.



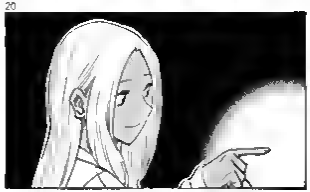
Huh?
Sobue?
It's a rare name.

Oh,
that isn't lame...

Huh?
Papa...

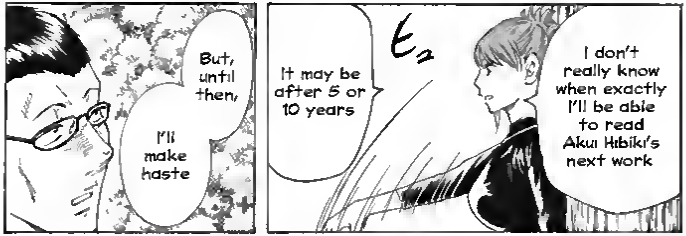
What a coincidence ...
How about coming over this weekend?
I don't know if papa's going to be there or not.

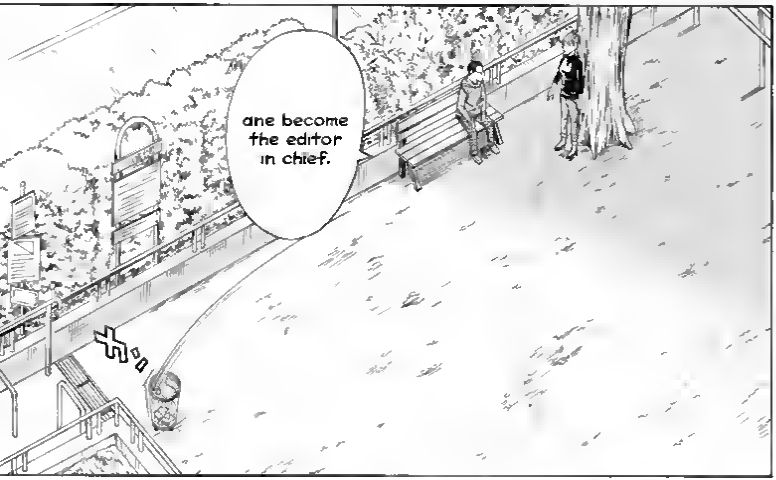
20

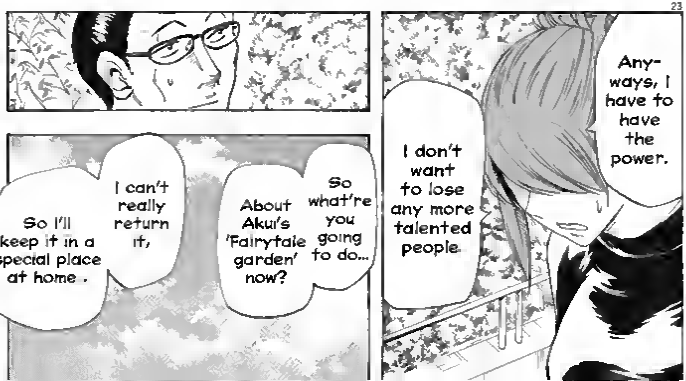


De Rijke Park Hills
Sobue Akihito
That guy.
I'll give up on Akui Hibiki.
For now,
21
.....

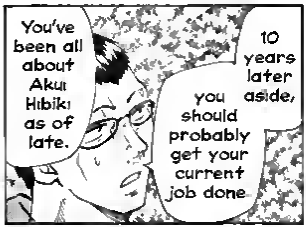
Aku Hibiki is probably a very young girl,
same as me
I guess 25...
I can't imagine a talent that young never ever writing again.
Yes.
'For now'?
That's fair.
I feel that way, too.
after writing one work. I feel like being young really doesn't have anything to do with this.
Well, a lot of geniuses feel satisfied
22.
So you aren't completely obsessed
That's not true.
The fact that 'the magazine belongs to the editor in chief' just hit home.
As fair as it may be, the world will not change.


But, until then,
I'll make haste
It may be after 5 or 10 years
I don't really know when exactly I'll be able to read Akui Hibiki's next work


ane become the editor in chief.


So I'll keep it in a special place at home.
I can't really return it,
About Akui's 'Fairytale garden' now?
So what're you going to do...
I don't want to lose any more talented people.
Anyways, I have to have the power.

for the day,
5 or 10 years down the line,
when I meet Akui Hibiki.


10 years later aside,
you should probably get your current job done
You've been all about Akui Hibiki as of late.

Well...
I guess the old delinquent is moving up in the world...
...who's the old delinquent?

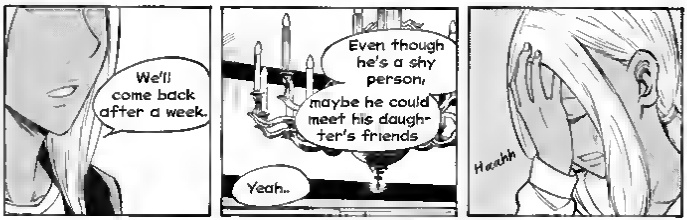
The editor in chief in 10 years...

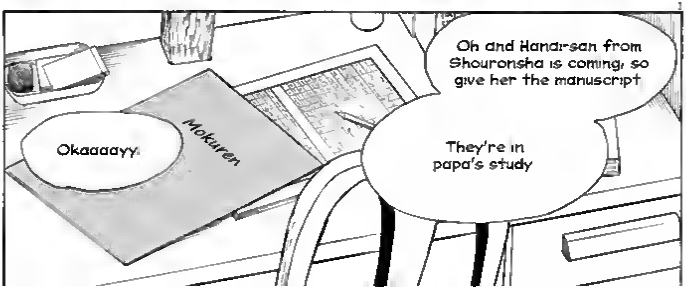
I haven't delayed it for a minute
I pretty much finished sending everything for this issue to the press
And now,

this weekend,
I will go to Sobue-san's place to get the column.

13: Visit
Rika, this may be sudden, but papa and mama are going to Finland
Huh!?

I said that my friends were coming tomorrow, right? Papa might want to meet some of the kids, too.
But Papa said that he needs inspiration.

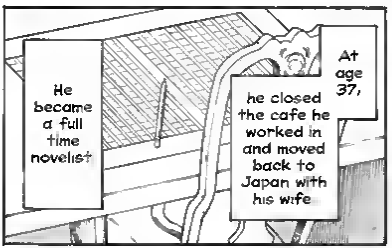

We'll come back after a week.
Even though he's a shy person, maybe he could meet his daughter's friends
Yeah..
Haahh

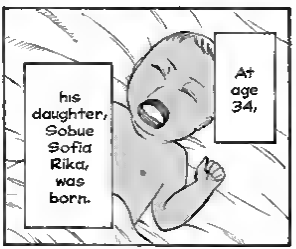

Oh and Hanai-san from Shouronsha is coming, so give her the manuscript
They're in papa's study
Okaaaayy.
Mokuren

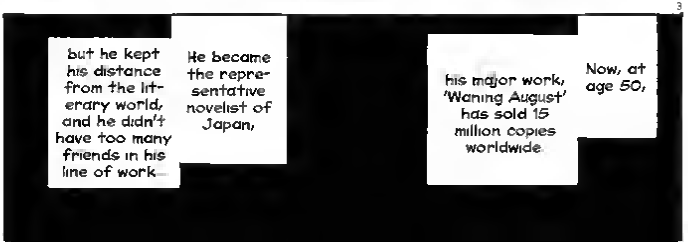
Sobue Akihito,
50 years old,
novel-ist.
13: Visit

At 26, he opened a cafe in Finland.
At 27, he got married to a Finnish woman there
and wandered through every country in Europe
Left Touryou University in the middle of his literature degree
After that, he went to Belgium by ship

'De Rijke Park Hills', which would become his maiden work, won the newcomer award
The same work won the Akutagawa Prize
At 29, he wrote a novel and submitted it to a Japanese literary magazine from Finland.


He became a full time novelist
At age 37, he closed the cafe he worked in and moved back to Japan with his wife

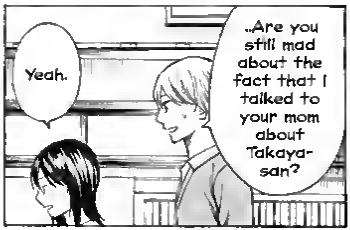

At age 34, his daughter, Sobue Sofia Rika, was born.


but he kept his distance from the literary world, and he didn't have too many friends in his line of work
He became the representative novelist of Japan,
his major work, 'Waning August' has sold 15 million copies worldwide
Now, at age 50,

Hibiki,

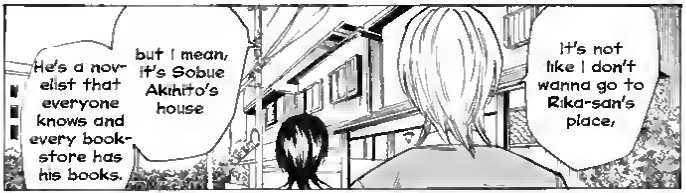
do you wanna go to the zoo now?

...you don't want to go to Rika's place?
The weather's nice and it's a good time to see the kangaroos.

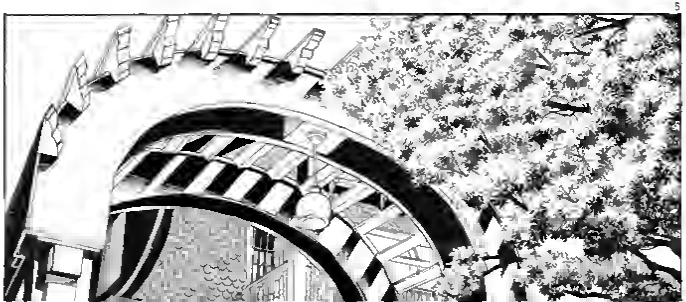

Yeah.
..Are you still mad about the fact that I talked to your mom about Takaya-san?

Haaah

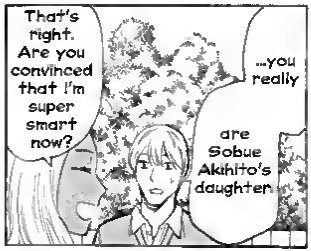
Hibiki.
I want to go, so you can go to the zoo alone, Ryoutarou
Have fun with the kanga-roos.

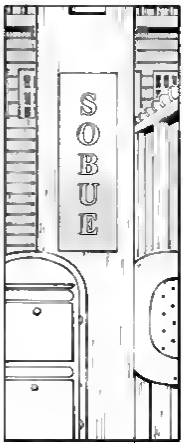

He's a nov-elist that everyone knows and every book-store has his books.
but I mean, it's Sobue Akihito's house
It's not like I don't wanna go to Rika-san's place,

Shut it
And I have a bad feeling...
It just doesn't feel realistic.
We're just normal high school stu-dents.


5

Wooooww.


That's right. Are you convinced that I'm super smart now?
...you really are Sobue Akihito's daughter.

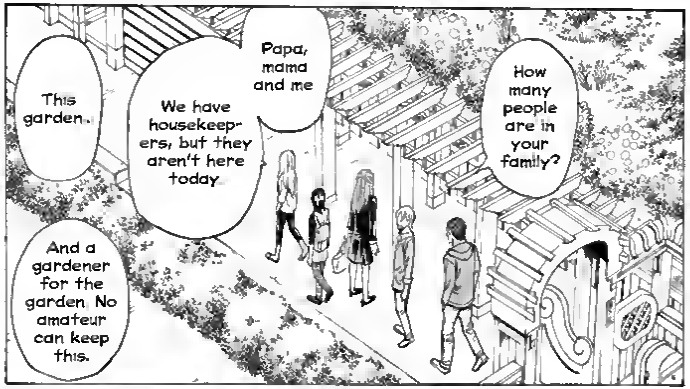

SOBUE

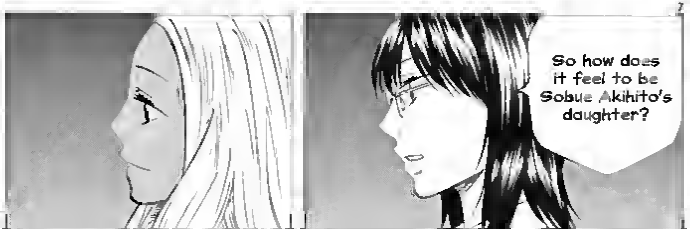
It's like we're in a novel!

I guess so..

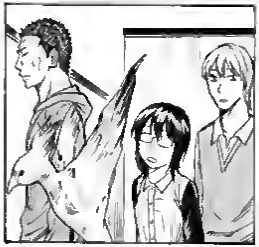
Takaya-san, have you been here before?
Shut up
Die

Come in
whoa whoa
Are you still mad...
But I didn't have a choice...

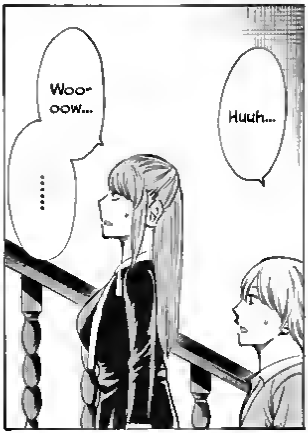

This garden.
Papa, mama and me
We have housekeepers, but they aren't here today.
How many people are in your family?
And a gardener for the garden. No amateur can keep this.

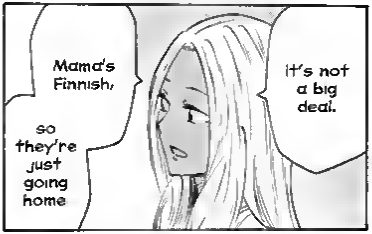

So how does it feel to be Sobue Akihito's daughter?

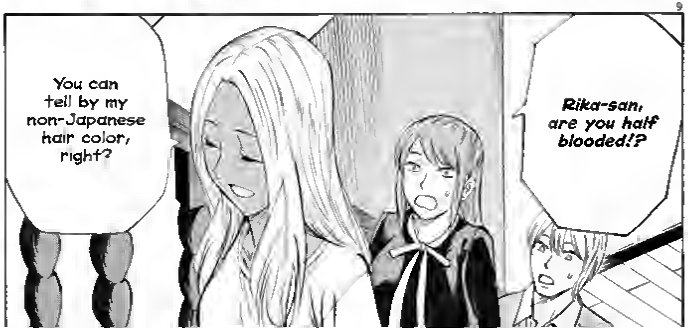
I've never been someone else's child, so I don't know.

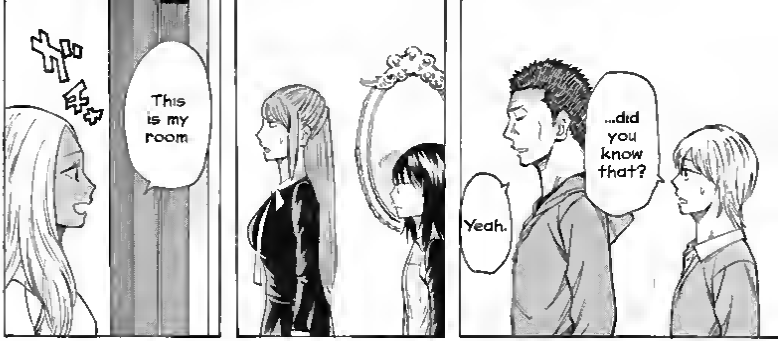


Hibiki
Oh, by the way, papa and mama aren't here today.
They went to Finland yesterday.
Woooow! They went overseas by themselves!

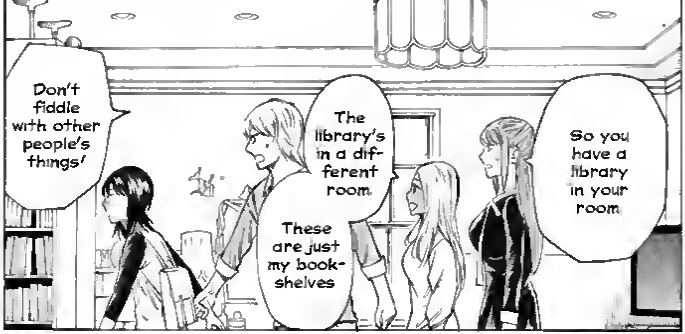

Huuh...
Woo-oow...
.....


it's not a big deal.
Mama's Finnish, so they're just going home

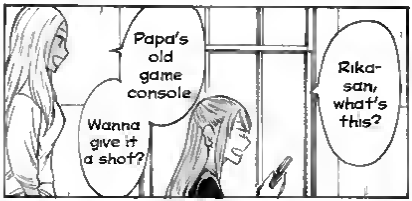

Rika-san, are you half blooded!?
You can tell by my non-Japanese hair color, right?


ガチャ
This is my room
...did you know that?
Yeah.

Just sit anywhere.

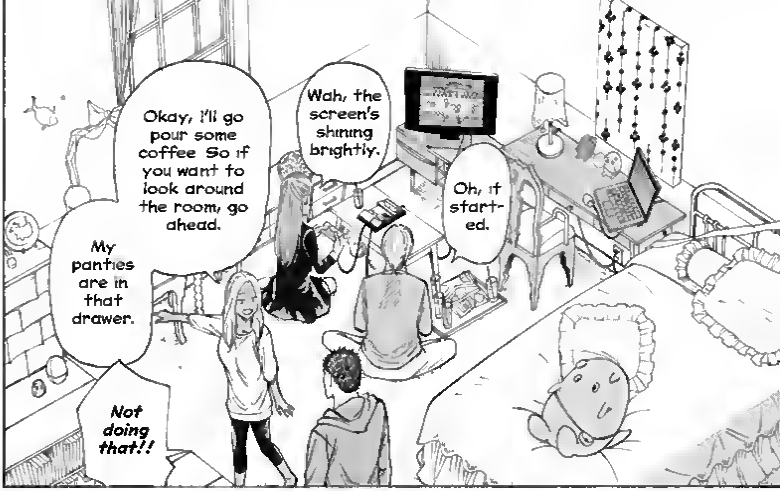

So you have a library in your room.
The library's in a different room.
These are just my bookshelves
Don't fiddle with other people's things!

No, it's fine
Hibiki-chan has kinda been on edge this whole time.
She's really excited.
She likes people's houses and enjoys fiddling with everything.
Hmm.


Rika-san, what's this?
Papa's old game console
Wanna give it a shot?

GAME SOFT

You turn it on with the switch there.
You can play with 2 people, so why don't you try, Ryouta-kun?
Sure

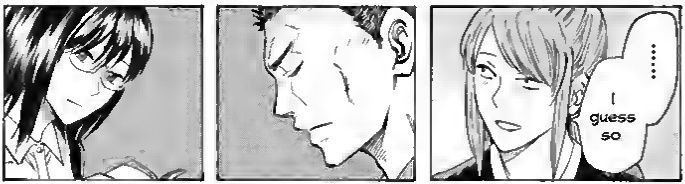

Okay, I'll go pour some coffee. So if you want to look around the room, go ahead.
Wah, the screen's shining brightly.
Oh, it started.
My panties are in that drawer.
Not doing that!!

Tch.
ピコピコ
ピコピコ
ピコピコ

t2

Rika-san is Rika-san.
her mom's a foreigner, and she lives in such a nice house...
It's like we're in a different world...
Rika-san, is awesome
Her dad's a novelist,

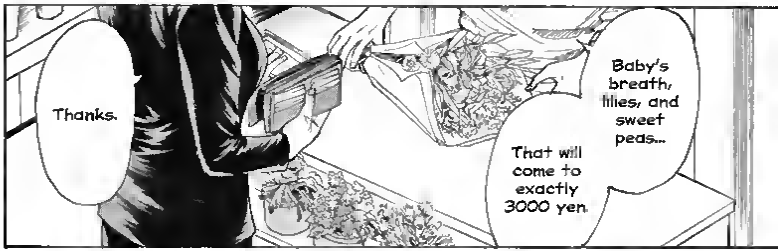
That's Rika-san for us.
It has nothing to do with her parents or her house.
She's the Hokuseto high literature club president
She's a small, cute girl with leadership skills


I guess so

I just came along because I had no choice, it's a club activity.
It's just tiring.

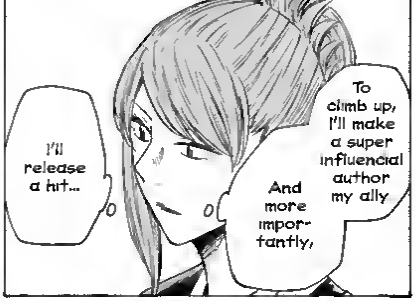
I'm gonna die right away
Will you try it out, Takaya-san?
It's pretty fun
Not playing.
I'm going home right after my coffee

Okay, while the coffee isn't here, how about we play together, and if I die first, I give you 100?


Thanks.
Baby's breath, lilies, and sweet peas...
That will come to exactly 3000 yen.

Thank you very much

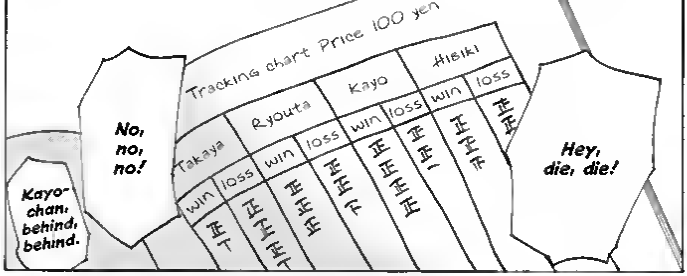
No matter what I do, the editor's job awaits me

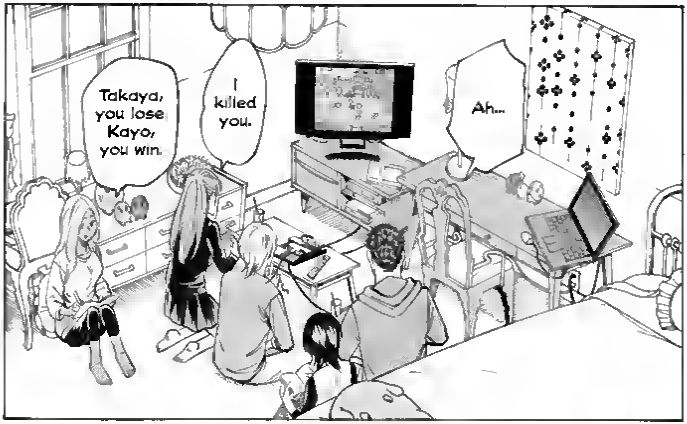

I'll release a hit...
And more importantly,
To climb up, I'll make a super influencial author my ally

I want to see talent that's never been seen before

I'll get a bunch of supporters ready,
since editors aren't creators
I'll wait for talent to appear...
I'll wait for them to bloom...

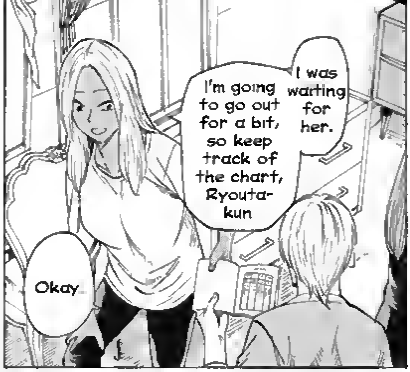
I want to drop a bomb on the world...

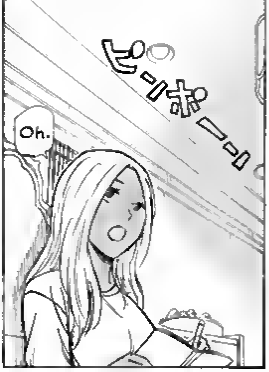

Tracking chart Price 100 yen
Takaya
Ryouta
Kayo
Hiroki
win
loss
No, no, no!
Kayo-chan, behind, behind.
Hey, die, die!

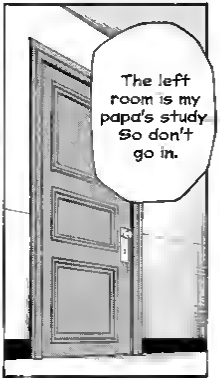

Takaya, you lose. Kayo, you win.
I killed you.
Ah...

Hey! Lose and switch, lose and switch.
...

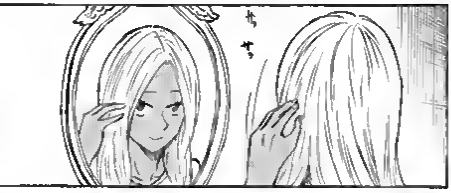
Takaya, if you stop the game, you pay a penalty!
Dammit...

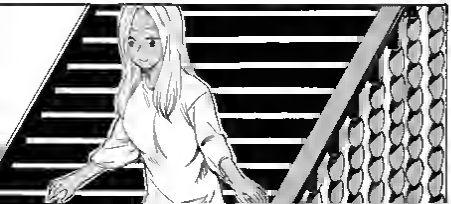

I was waiting for her.
I'm going to go out for a bit, so keep track of the chart, Ryouta-kun
Okay.

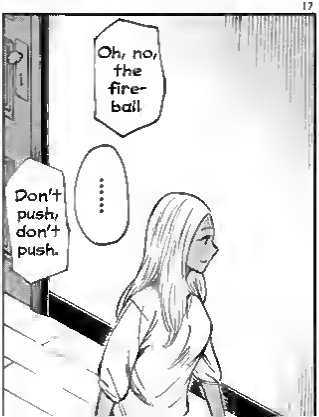

Oh.


The left room is my papa's study. So don't go in.

I think I might take a while, so I'll just say this,
the bathroom's on the right.





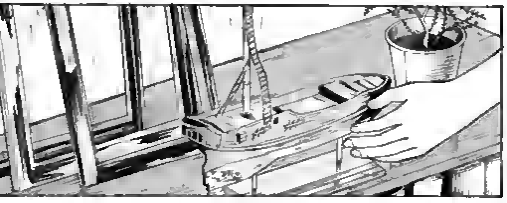

Oh, no, the fireball.
.....
Don't push, don't push.

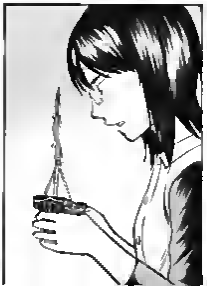
Hey, Rika-chan
Fumi-chan, heyoo.

Ok.
Bath-room's on the right. Don't go in the room on the left.

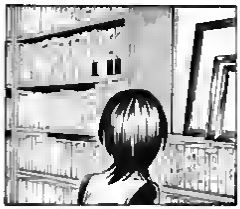
Ok.
Time to switch. I'll go to the bath-room

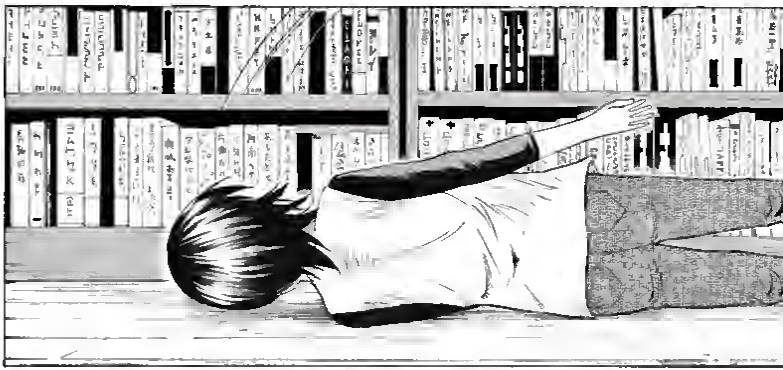
Ah.
Hibiki, fire-ball!
Yaaay!

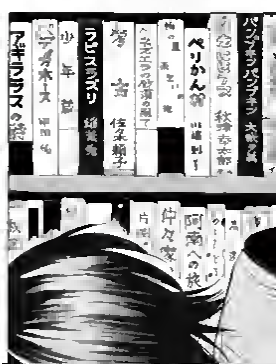


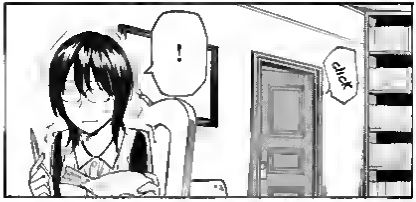


Urhea pikku
RUIMUT
GENESIS
Kalevalan
SAUNA elämät





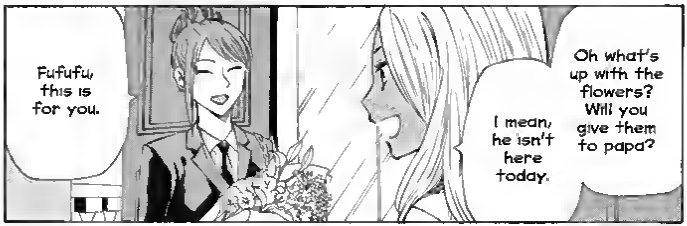

ペリかん
ラピスラズリ
アギラルフスの


!
click

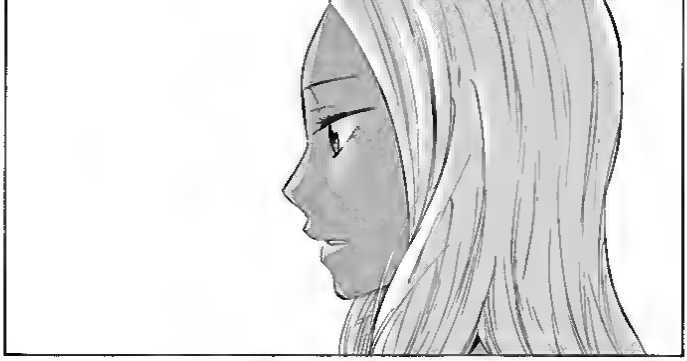
...who are you?

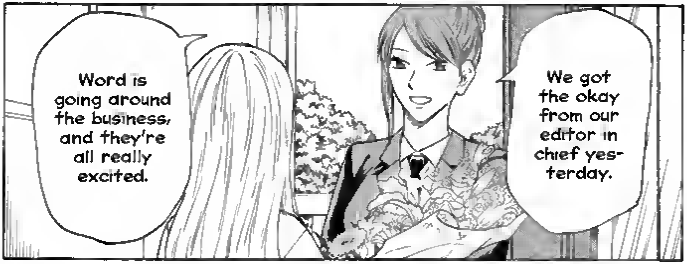
14: Who are you?

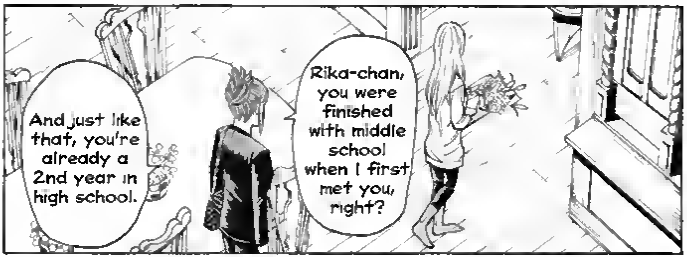
Fumi-chan, heyoo.
Hey, Rika-chan.


Fufufu, this is for you.
I mean, he isn't here today.
Oh what's up with the flowers? Will you give them to papa?

Your debut has been set.

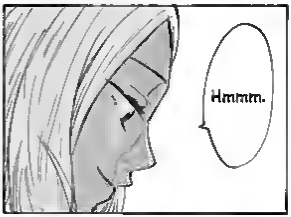



We got the okay from our editor in chief yesterday.
Word is going around the business, and they're all really excited.

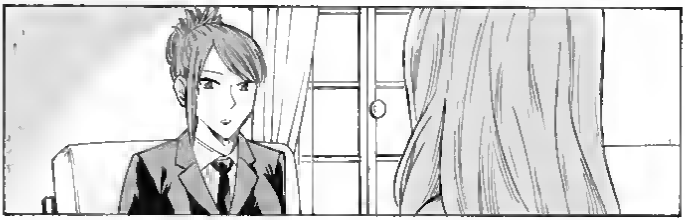

Rika-chan, you were finished with middle school when I first met you, right?
And just like that, you're already a 2nd year in high school.

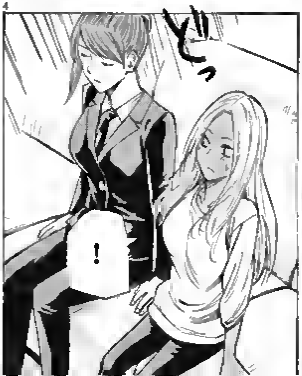
Congrats.

Thanks.

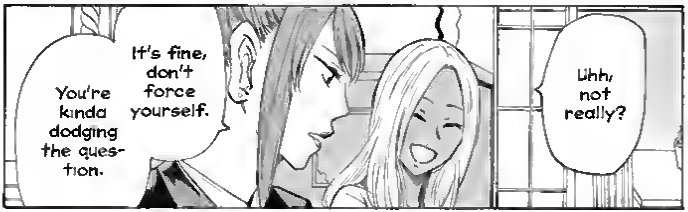

Hmmm.

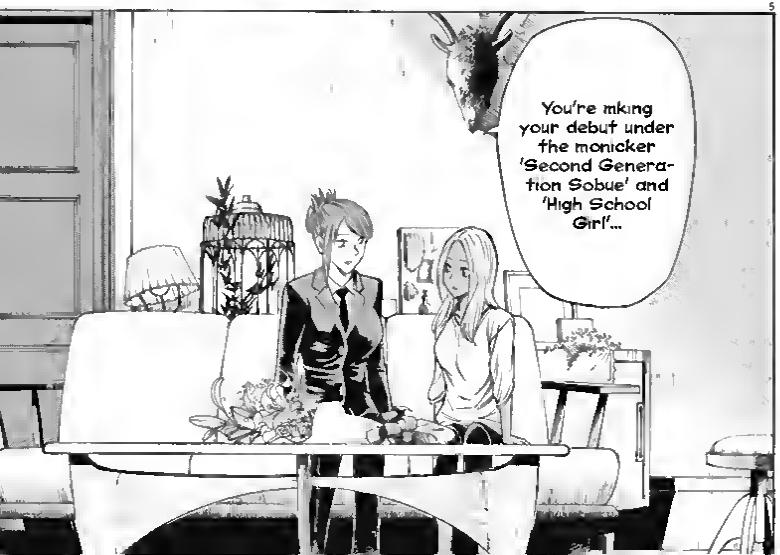
How do you feel about media interviews and your face on TV?
I think this whole thing will get pretty big.




!

What's up, Fumi-chan?
It's been a month since I last saw you.
Did something happen since then?


Uhh, not really?
It's fine, don't force yourself.
You're kinda dodging the question.

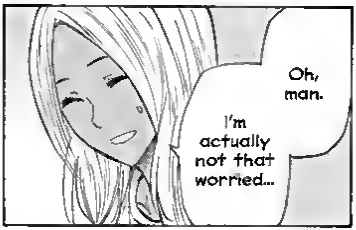

You're making your debut under the monicker 'Second Generation Sobue' and 'High School Girl'...

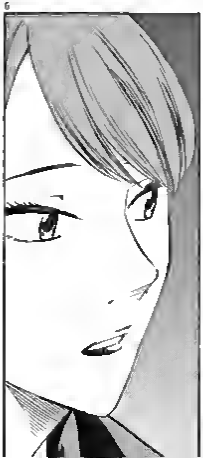
No, I don't really mind.
I mean, they've already decided on my debut, right?
It's fine, either way works.

If you want to think the whole thing over now, just say it. I won't mind.
Uh.

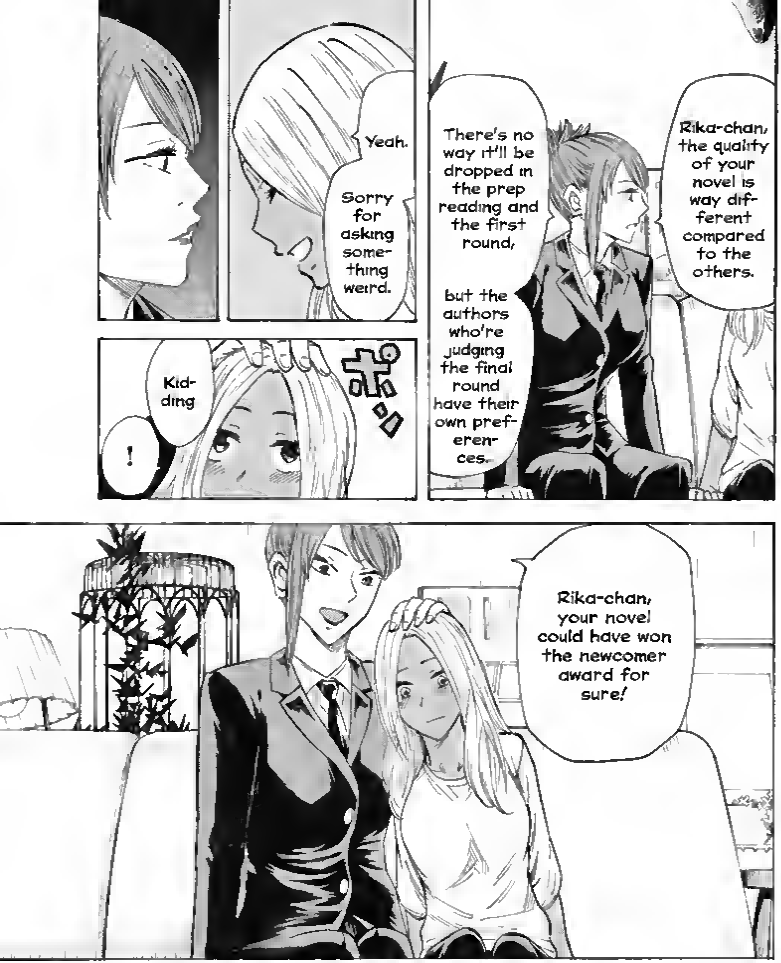
Nothing really...

...but
I'm just kinda thinking,

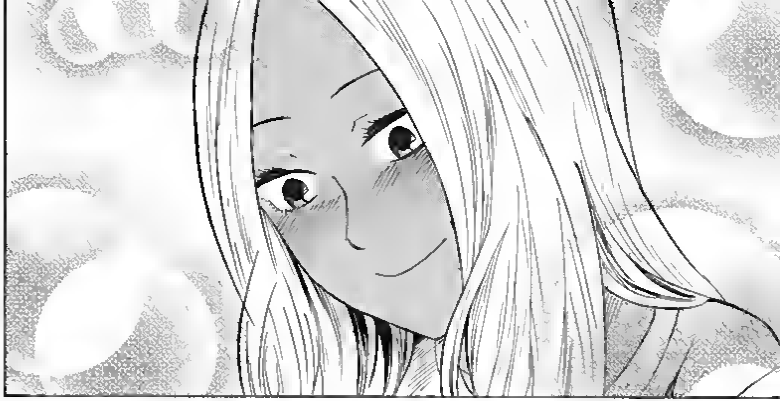

Oh, man.
I'm actually not that worried...

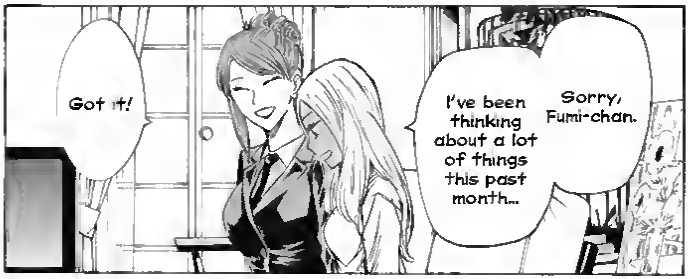


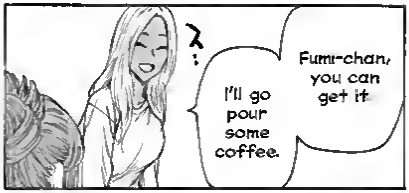
do you think I could've won it?
if I had submitted the work to the newcomer award,


Rika-chan, the quality of your novel is way different compared to the others.
There's no way it'll be dropped in the prep reading and the first round,
but the authors who're judging the final round have their own preferences.
Yeah.
Sorry for asking something weird.
Kidding
!
Rika-chan, your novel could have won the newcomer award for sure!

I guarantee it!



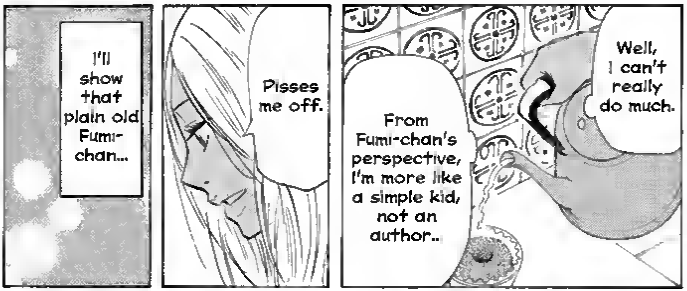

Sorry, Fumi-chan.
I've been thinking about a lot of things this past month...
Got it!


Fumi-chan, you can get it
I'll go pour some coffee.

Oh, that and
can I get Sobue-sensei's column?
Ah, it's in papa's study...

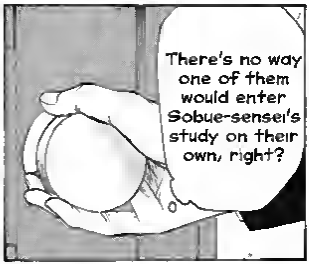
Sure.

I'm being toyed with, huh.

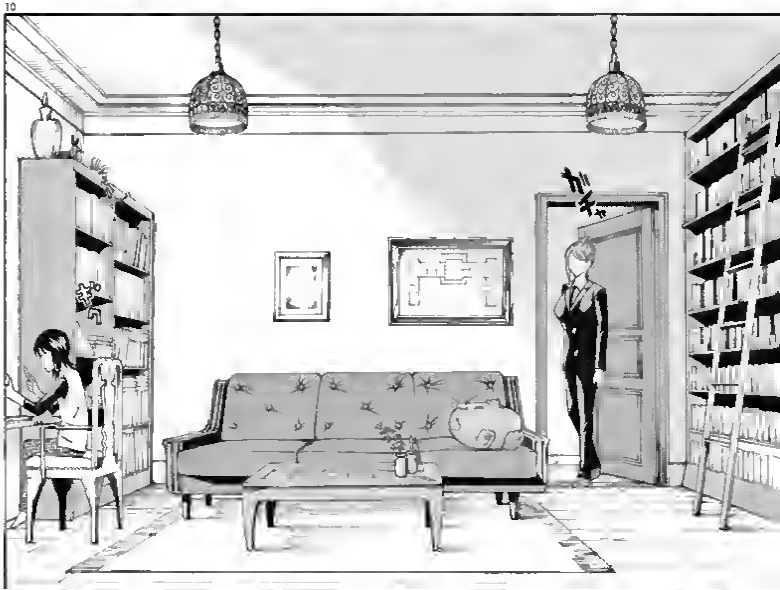

I'll show that plain old Fumi-chan...
Pisses me off.
From Fumi-chan's perspective, I'm more like a simple kid, not an author..
Well, I can't really do much.

Maybe I'll never encounter success in life.
I talked more than I should have..
...God dammit.
She's still just a kid.
Of course that girl's having some troubles.
...well, whatever.

Oh.
Please die!
Don't push me mo-ron!


There's no way one of them would enter Sobue-sensei's study on their own, right?

Rika-chan's friends?
It's rare for her to call people over.
There we go
Die.



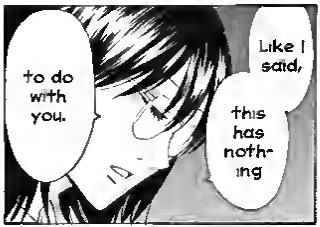
I thought so.

..who are you?

Who are you?

This is Sobue-sensei's study, so did you get permission to come in?
Hello there, you're Rika-chan's friend, right?

I'm the editor who's supervising Sobue-sensei.
This isn't a place for kids to enter.
Okay, get out.

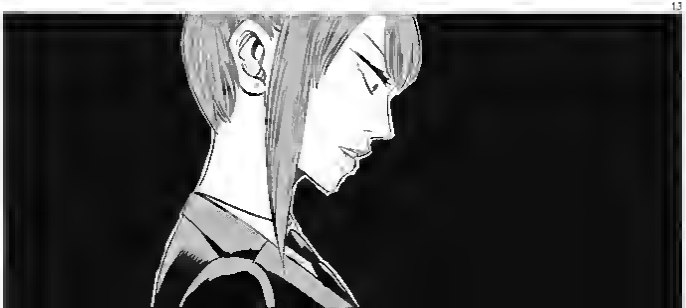

This has nothing to do with you.
It does. I told you, I supervise him.
Like I said, this has nothing to do with you.

12

.....
What do you mean?

MANUSCRIPT
This is the room where Sobue Akihito writes his novels.

What does an editor have to do with this place?



Yeah,
I have nothing to do with the actual composition.

Calm down.
She's just a kid

like collecting the necessary documents and data for him to write.
It's a job where we support and follow up on the author,
The job of an editor is to make the magazine where the author can present his work.

Lie?

Just revolting...
So you can lie with a straight face.

Now get out.
And that includes chasing outsiders from their study.

You don't seriously think that the editor's only job is to support the author, right?
I do think so.
Where's the lie?

You're talking to someone about your job, yet your words lack any kind of emotion, surprisingly.

Don't you think you're missing some words?
...I don't.

Really?
what's up with this girl?

You think that you're a creator as well, don't you?

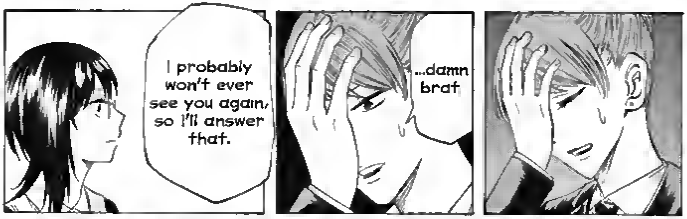
Huh?
Now there's your real opinion.

..we stay by the creator's side
and support them.

One more time..

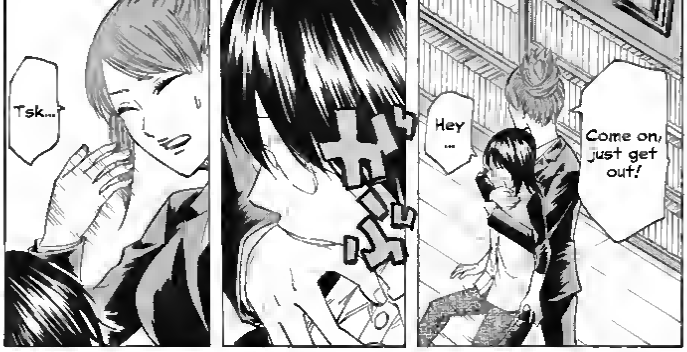
I'm going to ask a question which is answerable with a yes or a no, okay?

Are editors creators?

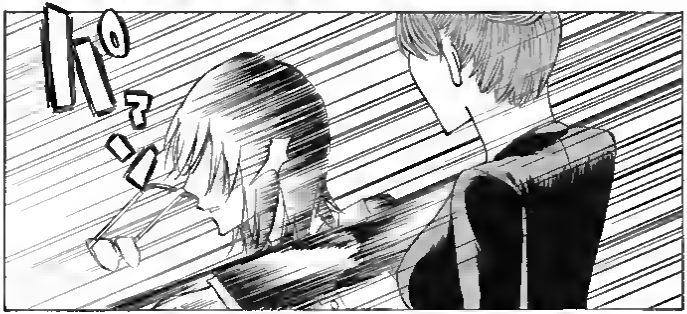

I probably won't ever see you again, so I'll answer that.
...damn brat

I intend on being one.

Ugh
...does this have anything to do with Sobue's novels?
...well, not yet.
Then this place has nothing to do with you.
Kyah!

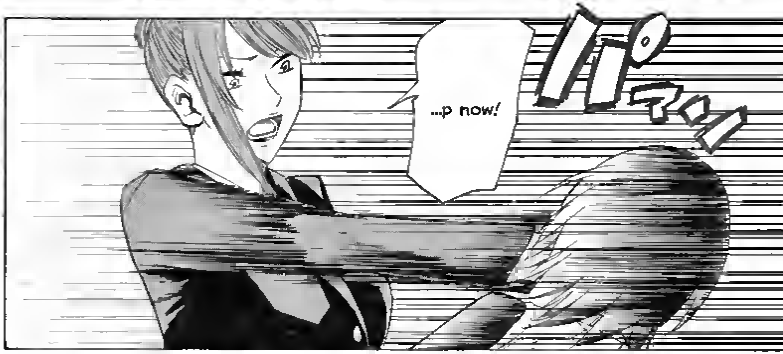

Tsk...
Hey ...
Come on, just get out!

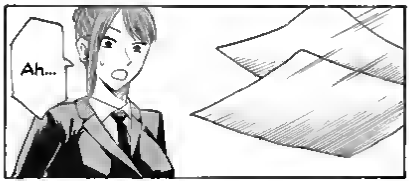
..you little...



Just cut the damn—

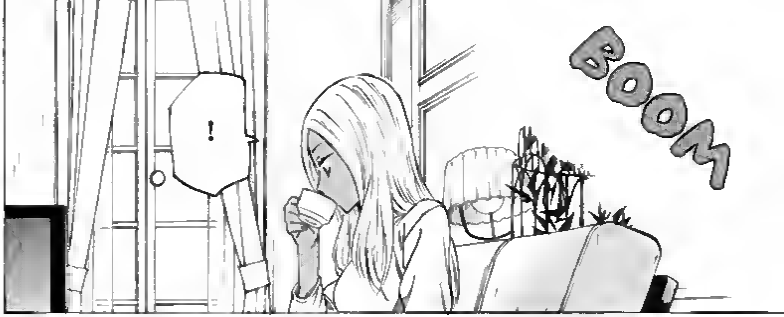
cra...

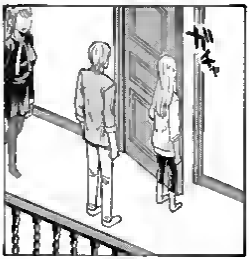

...p now!

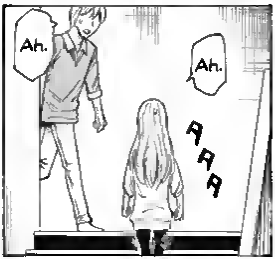

Ah...

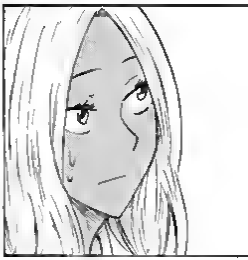
The man-usc-

Kya...
You fuck-ing...


!
BOOM




Ah.
Ah.
AAA



You're fucking insane! If I was a second too late, I'd be hurt real!...
Hey sto...

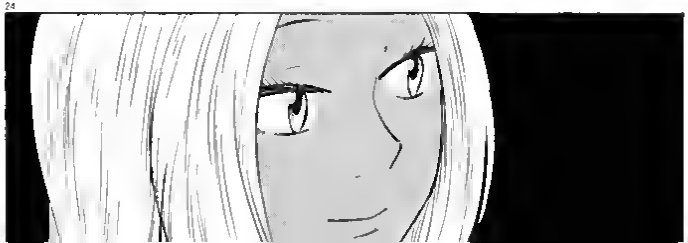
Ah.
Hey, wha...
What's happening?
...I'm sorry.
It's fine, there wasn't really anything breakable there
...I am so, so sorry.
It's fine, it's fine.
So, like, did anything happen with her?

...she's an unbelievable girl.

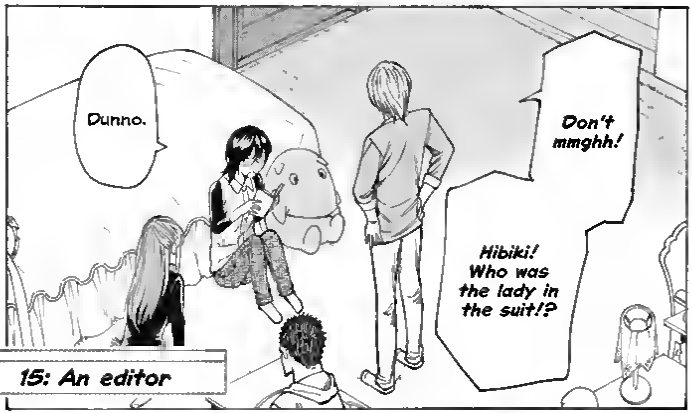
No, well...
She was just a little lost...
Ohh come on, tell me what happened.

Is that your friend from the literature club?
...yeah, my kouhai

What's her writing like?



MMGHH


Dunno.
Don't mmghh!
Hibiki! Who was the lady in the suit!?

15: An editor

I don't care who she is.
I mean, we probably won't ever meet again.

...how did she get into a fight with a random girl in someone else's house?

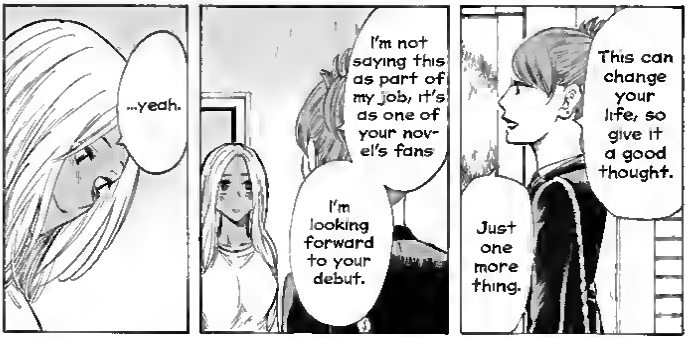
She looked so smart and cool...
I caught a glimpse of her... Wasn't she an editor?

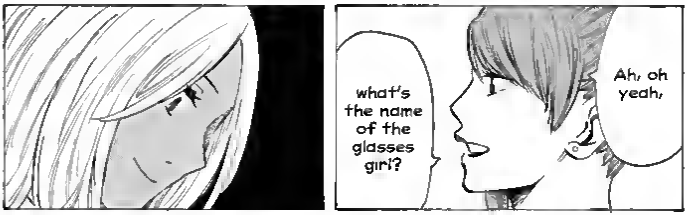
2

15: An editor

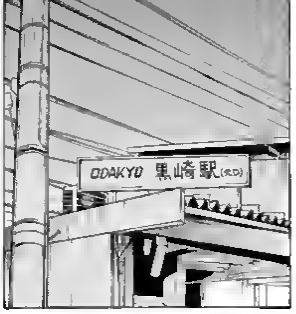
...why?
I mean, one's human nature comes out in their novel, right?
She's a really reckless girl.
Maybe she was looking for a thrill?
Wait here
...sure.
Ah, oh yeah, you said you made a literary journal.
Rika-chan, you wrote in it, right? Let me see it.
Thanks.
Useto High School
Literature Club Journal
May Edition

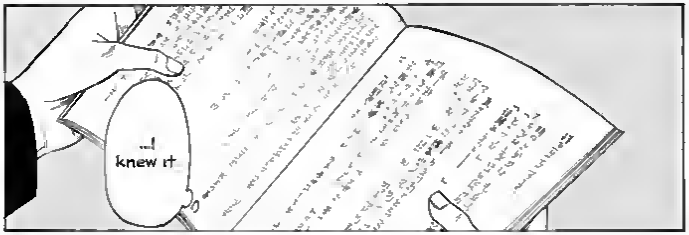
Yeah, sorry about that.
Okay, Rika-chan, tell me when you've decided in your heart to make your debut.


...yeah.
I'm not saying this as part of my job, it's as one of your novel's fans
I'm looking forward to your debut.
This can change your life, so give it a good thought.
Just one more thing.

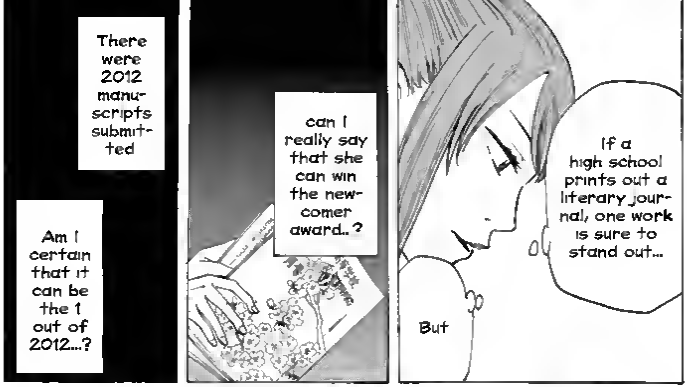

what's the name of the glasses girl?
Ah, oh yeah,

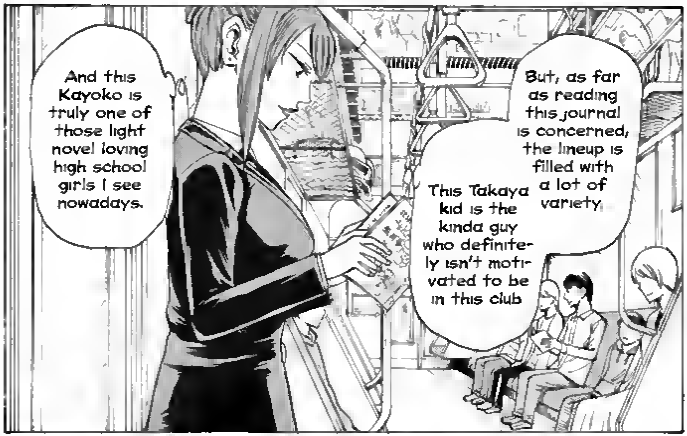
...yeah.
Later, Rika-chan
Well whatever, it's not like I'm meeting her ever again.

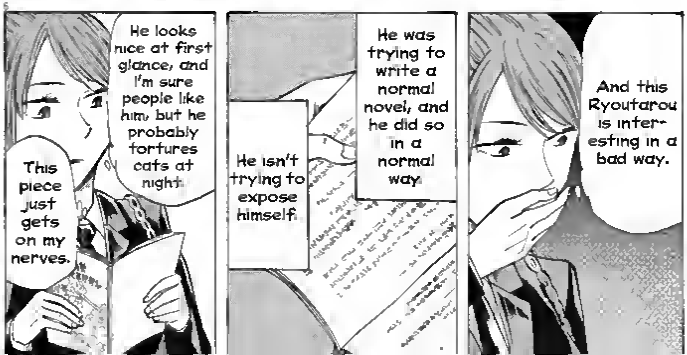

ODAKYU 鶴崎駅(KO)


...I knew it

Rika-chan's literary and organizational skills are extremely noteworthy.
And she has a clear theme...


If a high school prints out a literary journal, one work is sure to stand out...
But
can I really say that she can win the newcomer award..?
There were 2012 manuscripts submitted
Am I certain that it can be the 1 out of 2012...?

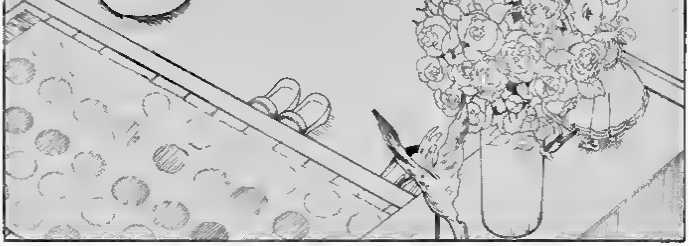

But, as far as reading this journal is concerned, the lineup is filled with a lot of variety.
This Takaya kid is the kinda guy who definitely isn't motivated to be in this club
And this Kayoko is truly one of those light novel loving high school girls I see nowadays.

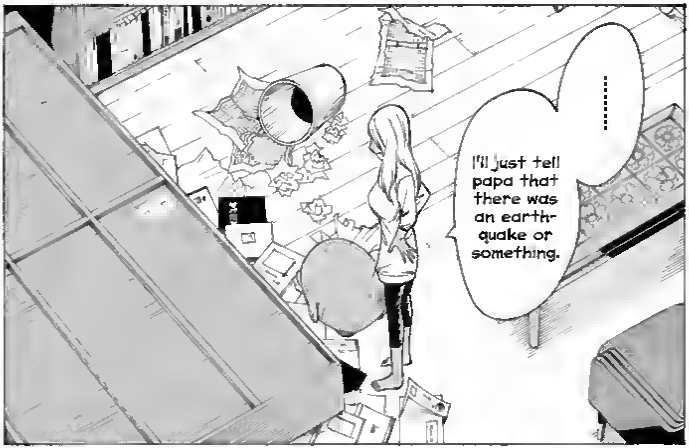

And this Ryoutarou is interesting in a bad way.
He was trying to write a normal novel, and he did so in a normal way.
He isn't trying to expose himself.
He looks nice at first glance, and I'm sure people like him, but he probably tortures cats at night.
This piece just gets on my nerves.

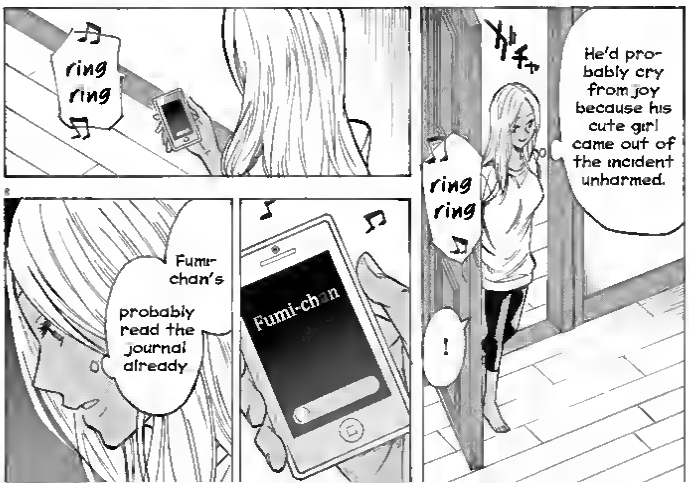
One's human nature comes out in their writings.
That glasses girl's novel wasn't among the ones I read now,
which means she's the last one
'Thousand year blossom'...

Hm?
Wha?

Akui Hibiki, huh.




I'll just tell papa that there was an earth-quake or something.


ring ring
ガチャ
He'd pro-bably cry from joy because his cute girl came out of the incident unharmed.
ring ring
!
Fumi-chan
Fumi-chan's
probably read the journal already

But,
please,
make my novel the first thing you talk about.
That's fine, too.
It was amazing
She's probably going to tell me that Hibiki-chan's novel is amazing

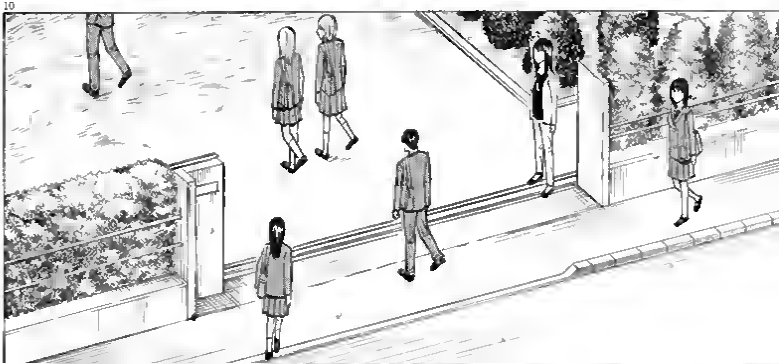
Hey heeeeeey
Fumi-chan, that was quick. Did you read it already?

Rika-chan, tell me Akut Hibiki's contact address.

Why?
.....

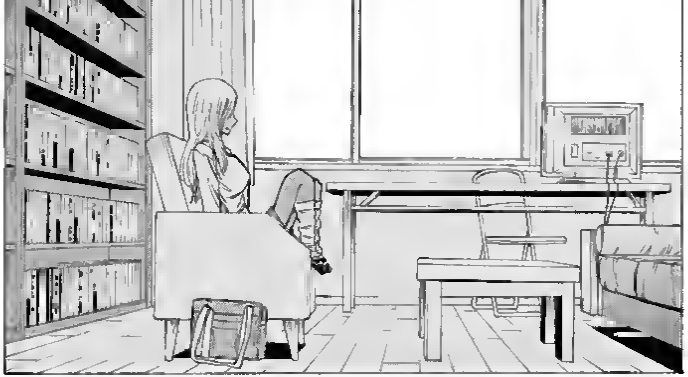
Huh...?
Uh...
Newcomer award...?

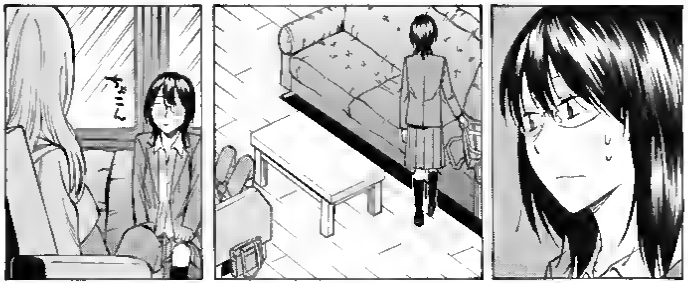
Hibiki-chan did...?



But was it really okay to leave the study bookshelf the way it was yesterday?
Rika said it was fine.
...who the heck would accept that explanation?
She'll trick him with some random stuff
Like how the bookshelf gained consciousness and started walking
That's rare, you got a text
From your mom?
Killing
!

I'm going there.
I'll go, too.
...it's probably about the book-shelf.
Maybe her dad snapped over it?
...from Rika.
She wants me to come to the club room to talk about something.
No.
It's my problem.
Literature club.




ドサッ

did you submit something for the Mokuren newcomer award?

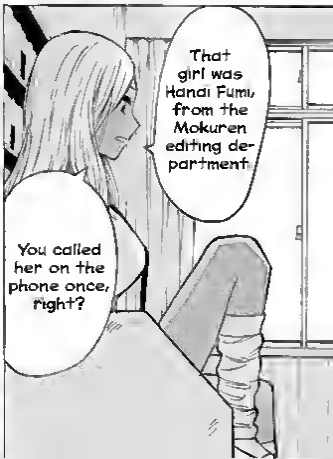
Sorry for calling you so early in the morning.
It's fine.

I was just thinking,
but the bookshelf wanted to fall over, so I pushed it.
Hibiki-chan,

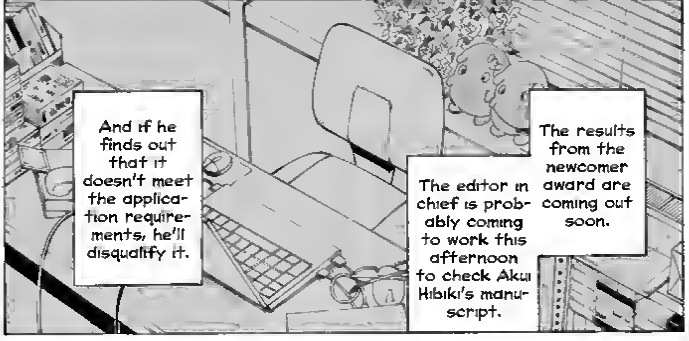
So you really didn't know who that girl was yesterday.
How...
.....
.....

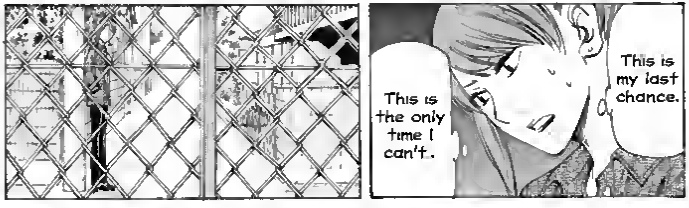
.....
Huh...?

Uh...


That girl was Hanai Fumi, from the Mokuren editing department.
You called her on the phone once, right?

8.50...
Classes have already started by now...
There are two gates here...
So did Akui Hibiki pass through the other gate? Is she skipping class..?
Well, you really can't blabber on about someone else's personal information without their permission.
Rika-chan never gave me her contact address.


The results from the newcomer award are coming out soon.
The editor in chief is probably coming to work this afternoon to check Aku Hibiki's manuscript.
And if he finds out that it doesn't meet the application requirements, he'll disqualify it.


This is my last chance.
This is the only time I can't.

Then maybe...
...Rika-chan told me before that the old school building became the club building.

...well
but, like,
The name register is in the club room...

I'll become a criminal for sure
I can jump the fence..
there's a teacher at the school gate, so I can't just enter on my own
I'm late again.
I can't wait until school finishes, so I really have to...
I can't wake up early, so why do I even stay up late?
Wah!

Morning. I'm not a suspicious person, so relax!
Huh...?

Ah...
You were at Rika-chan's house yesterday, right?
Uh...
?
?

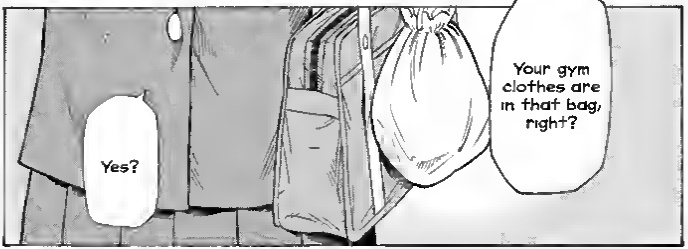
You can call me Fumi-chan.
I'm an editor at Shouronsha, Hanai Fumi.

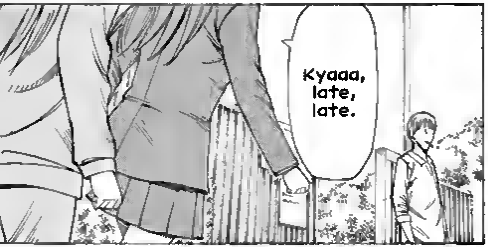
I read your magazine. You're Kayoko-chan, right?
A-an editor!?

You're the girl who fought with Hibiki-chan...
Yeah! Thank God you remember.

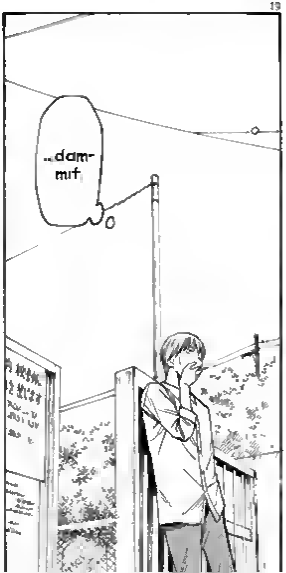
Y-yeah.
An editor read my work!

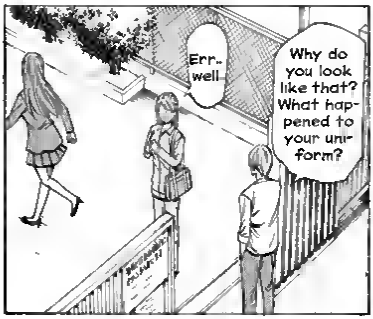
Kayoko-chan, I have a favor to ask.
Just relax, I won't be much of a bother.
I won't ask for your friend's personal information.
I just want to borrow something.


Your gym clothes are in that bag, right?
Yes?


Kyaaa, late, late.

Sorry about that.
You guys are late! First period's already started.


..dammit


Err... well...
Why do you look like that? What happened to your uniform?

Hey, you in the gym clothes.

I heard from Fumi-chan
that you completely ignored their application requirements,
but you sent a masterpiece that's sure to win

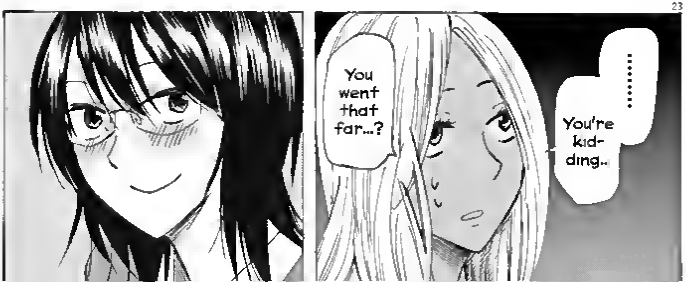
There was only one clue about the author
the name, Akui Hibiki.
Why did—
This is the literature club.

Fumi-chan!?
Uh...
I should be the one asking you that...
I mean, why do you look like that...?
Why're you two here? Don't you have class now...?
Glasses!
You're Akui Hibiki!
perfect timing
W-well,
Tell me your contact information!
But, for now, I just want to say one thing
I have a bunch of stuff I want to ask and talk to you about!

Uh... huh.
You're the one on the phone..
Yeah that's right! Second time I saw you, third time I talked to you!
...aren't you embarrassed looking like—
I'm so embarrassed I want to die! I'm already 25!

What're you here for?
Ugh..

I'm getting your novel through the newcomer award judging, so I need your contact information
I was wondering if there was a name register here or something...

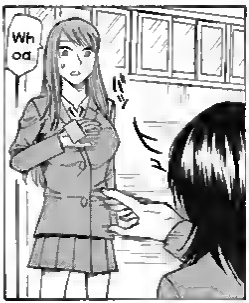

.....
You're kidding..
You went that far...?

Ahah hah hah hah hah!
Ugh.

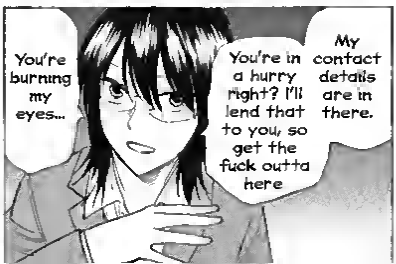
You definitely beat me in that category.

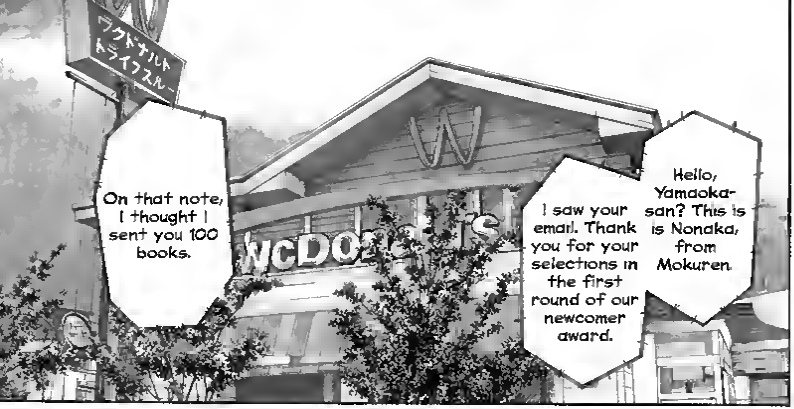
Fumi,
you're god damn insane

Your student notepad...


Whoa

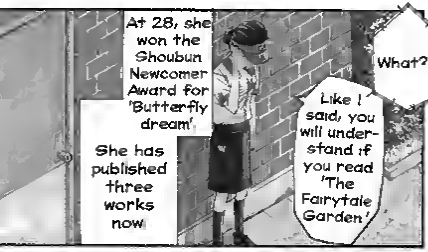
...I'll contact you very soon.


You're burning my eyes...
You're in a hurry right? I'll lend that to you, so get the fuck outta here
My contact details are in there.

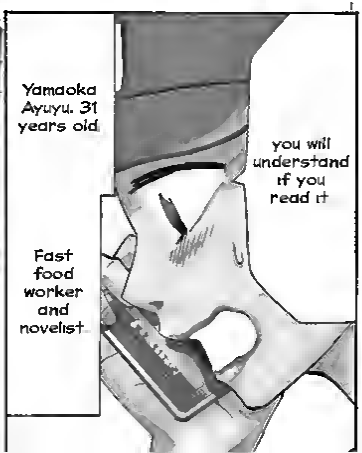

Hello, Yamaoka-san? This is Nonaka, from Mokuren.
I saw your email. Thank you for your selections in the first round of our newcomer award.
On that note, I thought I sent you 100 books.

Nonaka-san,
Why did you select only one book to pass?

16: Judges


At 28, she won the Shoubun Newcomer Award for 'Butterfly dream'.
She has published three works now.
What?
Like I said, you will understand if you read 'The Fairytale Garden'.

Total number of copies sold 14 thousand
That one work was enough!

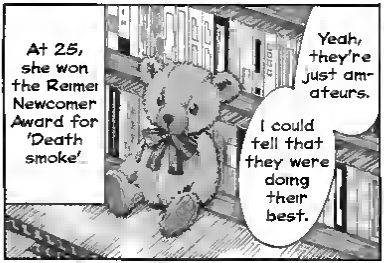

Yamaoka Ayuyu. 31 years old.
Fast food worker and novelist.
you will understand if you read it.

Hey Yamaoka-san!
It turns common sense inside out.
Uhh...
You think so, right, Nonaka-san?
No, it's not enough. Not enough at all
The first round is a preliminary round, so you have to leave between 20 to 30.
I told you over and over to not make a fuss around the store!
Ugh.
Are you sure about this? You're just going to get less judging opportunities next time.
Fine, I'll do it! I will!!
Stupid! Illiterate!
Okay, thanks.
Yamaoka-san!
McDonald's Drive Thru
You have until Friday.
It was so amazing...
It's like it taught me the right way to live...
Yamaoka-san, shut the phone off!
Uuuu ghh...
You've finished reading everything, right? Could you list 19 more books during the week?
Hey wait, are you on break now?

16: Judges

One month later.

Hey, Nabe-san? It's Nishi.
I sent the second round selections for the newcomer award just now.


At 25, she won the Reimei Newcomer Award for 'Death smoke'.
Yeah, they're just amateurs.
I could tell that they were doing their best.

Nishigaya Kou 32 years old.
Office lady and novelist.
Yeah, well...
It went as usual...

Total number of copies sold: 28 thousand.
Well...
She has published five works now.

'The fairytale garden' was the only...
Well,
good one.

Ohh, that's rare. Nisshi, you're praising someone else's work.
It's pretty rough, though
Well..

Aaa ahh...
Is this author, Akui Hibiki,
a boy? A girl?
.....
Uh...
but, how do I put this...
No, I'm not exactly praising it.
I just think my works are the best ever,

Well, I couldn't discern it from the work itself, so I was just kinda curious
So either works.
Ahhh, I see
Sorry Nisshi, I can't disclose the applicant's personal information.
If this is only about the gender, I don't think it really matters. So just pick any
Well, I'm not really curious...
Ahaha, are you that curious about this Aku?
.. by the way, could I just ask for the age?
Is he or she above 32?
Okay then, thank you for your selections.
Now, good luck on your own work.
Uhh.
Are you that curious?
Hon-estly...

It's the first time I've seen someone with so much talent..

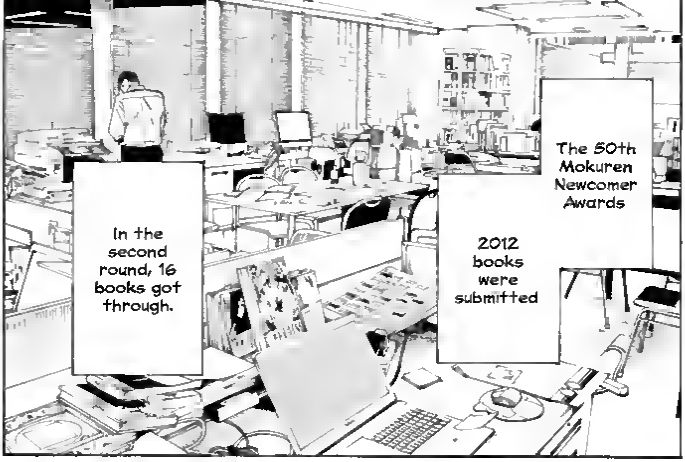
It's even making this egotistical woman sing praise..
So I just want this guy to be an elder I can respect...

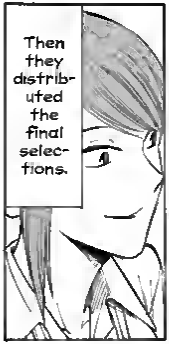
I thought, a human being just can't die in such a cool way...
I want to try making a world just like this person..

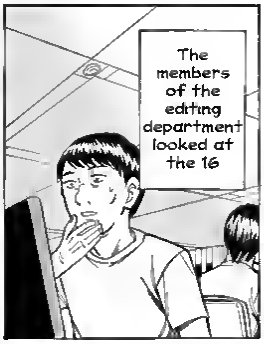
Wha..

How old is this guy?
Well.. I can't really tell you.
Uhhh Akui, Akui...

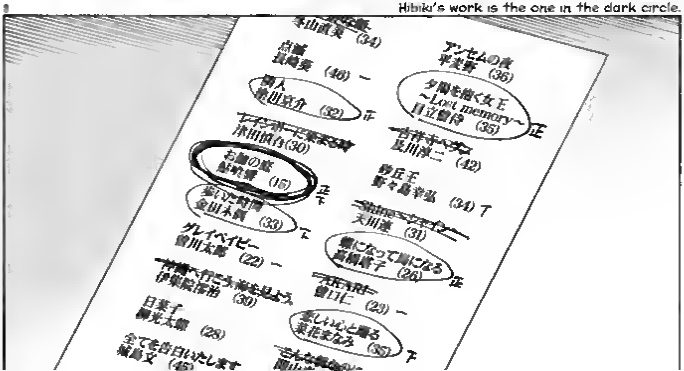
Fif-teen?
15...?





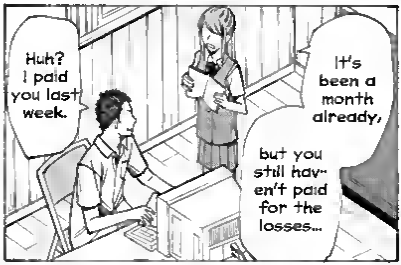


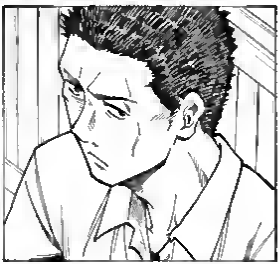
Hibiki's work is the one in the dark circle.



Uhhh..

おず
おず
Takaya-kun.
Uhh...


Huh? I paid you last week.
It's been a month already,
but you still haven't paid for the losses...



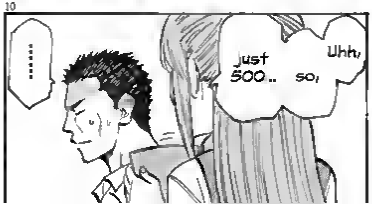
You said that last week...
Tch.
I'll pay it next week.
Yeah,
there's 500 yen left...

バン
しゃーし

Eee..
I stay quiet for a bit and you take advantage...

I-
I-
I'm sorry...

Tch.


Uhh, so, just 500..
.....

Who do you think you're talking to here, dammit?

I mean, stop calling me Takaya-kun, moron.
I'll tell Rika-san on you.
T-Takaya-kun, no threatening!
Eeek!
RAGH

She left right away since she had something to do
Uhhh...
Where is Rika-san?
Tch.
Ah, Ryouta-kun.

Huh...
She left right away because she had something to do...
Same with Hibiki.
I see...

Are you her damn guardian?
Ever since we went to Rika-san's place last month, Hibiki's been acting weird.
Maybe Rika-san and Hibiki have to do the same thing.
So you won't be satisfied unless she's within your eyesight?
Yes
Uh huh...
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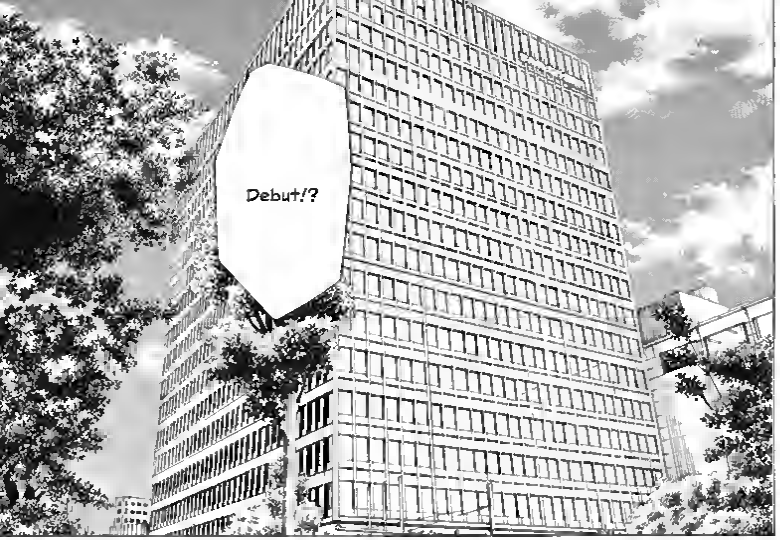
Debut!?

Sobue-san's daughter?

I mean, isn't she still a kid?
I believe she's 16..

Haaah..

I met his daughter several times when I went to parties.
She's the dumb, frivolous looking one..
Ah, but she seems to write pretty well

Kijima Hitoshi. Age 42.
Novelist
Can you really make a 16 year old kid debut when she only writes 'pretty well'?

His third work 'Look at the snow' won the Shiga Literature Award.
Yes.
How was it?
Have you read Sobue-san's new work, white whatever?
At age 28, he won the Mokuren Newcomer award

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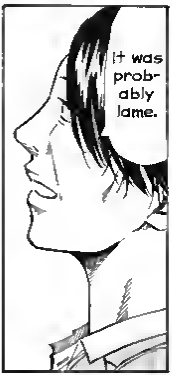
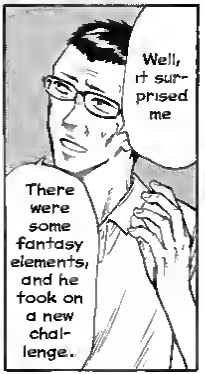
...no, but
the sales are unbelievable. It's on its fifth reprint already.
His sensibility's gotten old, so he has no choice but to add new elements.
He truly was an amazing author


It was probably lame.


Well, it surprised me
There were some fantasy elements, and he took on a new challenge.

Yeah, yeah, the only thing he's good at are sales.
Moderate media exposure will stir up some talk.
His fifth work 'The rotting country of withered flowers' won the Akutagawa prize
Haha...
How can he say that?
He's published 26 works now.
Total amount of copies sold 19 million
If I was asked to be on TV or do lectures, I wouldn't refuse
I want to follow his example I truly do
So if his daughter's debuting on Mokuren, is it pure literature?
Yeah.

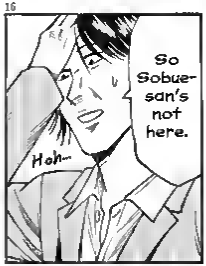
Mokuren Newcomer Award. Selection committee member.
If only she had sent it to the newcomer award so I could critique it.

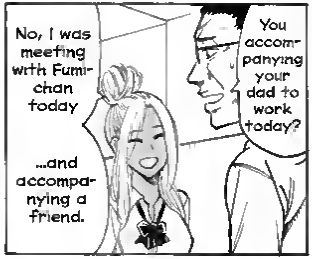
Ah.

Ahhh, but it probably wouldn't last to the final round.
Ha ha ...

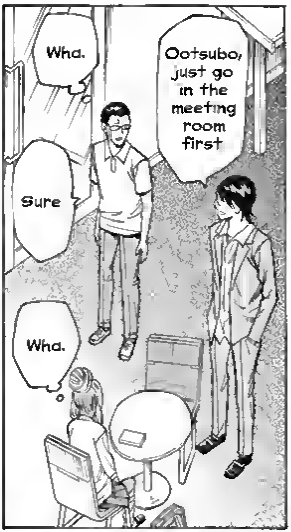
Hey, long time no see.
Sobue Rika... chan.
Ahh, Kijima-san, Ootsubo-san, it's been a while.

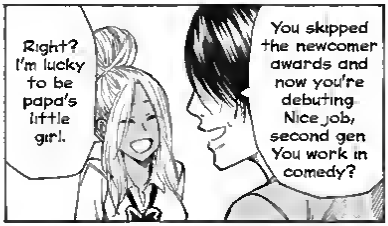
Geh

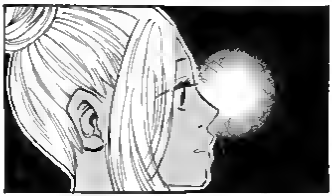

So Sobue-san's not here.
Hah-


No, I was meeting with Fumi-chan today
...and accompanying a friend.
You accompanying your dad to work today?

I heard, Rika-chan, that you're debuting, right?
Ohh, how did you find out?


Ootsubo, just go in the meeting room first
Wha.
Sure
Wha.


You skipped the newcomer awards and now you're debuting. Nice job, second gen. You work in comedy?
Right? I'm lucky to be papa's little girl.



What're you laughing about?

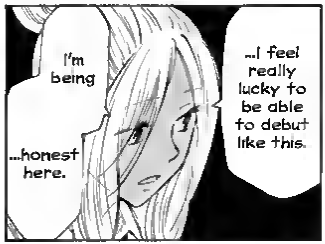
You happy about debuting under your papa's name?

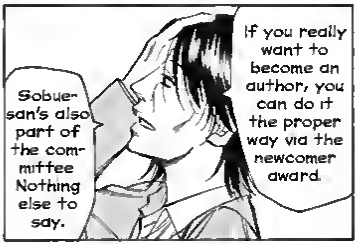
why're you treating this so lightly?
Yeah.
Like I said,

This is a pain.

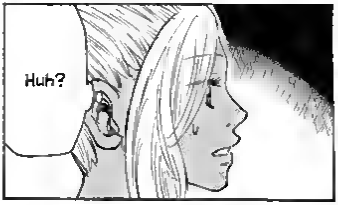
but I hate my papa since I'm being treated like a representative of pure literature even though I don't get any exposure at all.
Maybe it's because the media talks about him a lot,

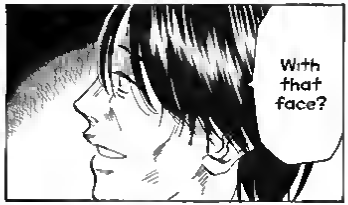
Yeah.
I honestly do feel really pathetic now.

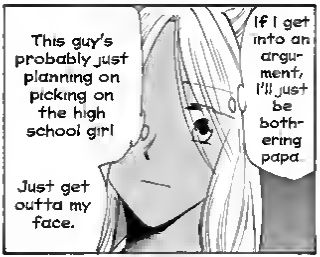

I'm being ...honest here.
...I feel really lucky to be able to debut like this.

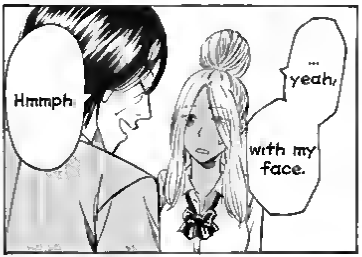

If you really want to become an author, you can do it the proper way via the newcomer award.
Sobue-san's also part of the committee Nothing else to say.

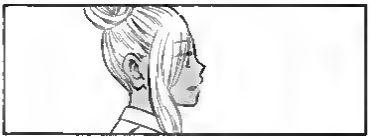
It's not half hearted
! seriously like writing novels.
You really have a good dad there.
So a high school girl's making a half hearted debut only because her dad's a famous author


Huh?


With that face?


This guy's probably just planning on picking on the high school girl
If I get into an argument, I'll just be bothering papa
Just get outta my face.


Hmmph
... yeah, with my face.



Huh?

Rika-chan, you're worth about 20K, right?

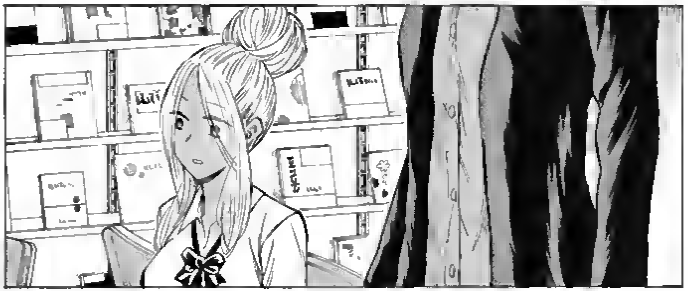
You're missing a hundred digits there
Go die.

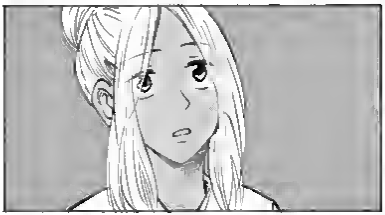
There are a lot of things more suitable for you than literature
Have you tried compensated dating? You have the fashion sense for it.

ハンギャ
10巻
累計4十万部ありがとう

論社

Gaaah!





Wha
...

「響～小説家になる方法～」第2集―完―

響～小説家になる方法～2

ビッグ コミックス

ISBN978-4-09-187148-0

2015年8月4日初版第1刷発行

著者　柳本光晴
©Mitsuharu Yanamoto 2015

発行者　立川義剛

印刷所　中央精版印刷株式会社

Printed in Japan

「ビッグコミックスペリオール」15年第3号、第4号、第6号～第8号、第10号～第12号、第14号掲載作品

連載担当／石田貴信
単行本編集責任／赤名典之
単行本編集／石田貴信、向井正二（小学館ナニング）

発行所　（〒101-8001）東京都千代田区一ツ橋二の三の一
TEL 編集03(3230)5509　販売03(5281)3556
株式会社小学館

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書　名　響～小説家になる方法～　2
著者名　柳本光晴
発　行　株式会社小学館
〒101－8001　東京都千代田区一ツ橋２－３－１

電子書籍制作会社　株式会社昭和ブライト